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M1128 Stryker in 1:72, BMR-2 mine-clearance tank, Ferret Mk.2 armoured car references, plus news, kit previews and much more...

REAP THE **WIRBELWIND**

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Model by Wayne Hui

Model by Jeremy Moore

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THIS MONTH IN TAMIYA MODEL MAGAZINE...

In the May 2024 Issue (343) of Tamiya Model Magazine we have a detailed article on Tamiya's superb new 1:35 Leopard 2A7V MBT. Check it out! www.doolittlemedia.com

NEWS JUST IN...

ANDY'S HOBBY QUARTERS

- 1:16 WW2 American M8 Greyhound armoured car

andyshhq.com



AK INTERACTIVE

- 1:35 Breuer IV Rail Shunter

ak-interactive.com



DAS WERK
- 1:16 Sd.Kfz. 251/22 Pakwagen
das-werk-models.com



GECKO MODELS

- 1:16 7.5cm PaK40 Anti-tank Gun Early Production
- 1:35 British Army Truck Driver Set
- 1:35 Dragon Teeth Anti-Tank Obstacle Set

tankmuseumshop.org



ICM

- WWI US Vehicles acrylic paint set
- 1:35 Burma Jeep
- 1:35 WWI US Ammunition Truck FWD Type B
- 1:35 'War Has No Gender' Female servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine
- 1:35 Type G4 with MG34 and German Staff Personnel

icm.com.ua_hannants.co.uk



MINIART

- 1:35 British Armoured Car Crew
- 1:35 Refugees Teachers Family
- 1:35 1:35 Oil products delivery car
- 1:35 Tempo A400 Lieferwagen Bakery Van

miniart-models.com creativemodels.co.uk



REVELL

- 1:72 Spähwagen Fennek
- 1:76 Jagdpanzer IV (L70)

revell.de



TAKOM

- 1:35 Jagdpanzer 38(t) command version (full interior) w/winterketten
- 1:35 Flakpanzer 38(t) 'Kugelblitz'
- 1:35 Flammpanzer 38(t)

bachmann.co.uk

NEW FROM RYE FIELD MODEL

1:35 SD.KFZ.234/2 PUMA

Pumas seem to be like London buses: you wait ages for ages for one, then two – actually three – come along together! Rye Field Models' kit will feature a detailed interior, engine and steerable wheels.

www.tankmuseumshop.org



NEW FROM GECKO MODELS

1:35 M76 AMPHIBIOUS CARGO CARRIER OTTER

Wonderful news from Gecko Models with their announcement of a new-tool kit of the M76 Otter vehicle, a true Vietnam War rarity!

www.tankmuseumshop.org



NEW FROM GECKO MODELS

1:35 LAMBRO 550 'SAIGON SHUTTLE'

This little wagon, sometimes known as a 'tuk tuk' will be perfect for Vietnam War street-scene dioramas!

www.tankmuseumshop.org



NEW FROM GECKO MODELS

1:16 UNIVERSAL CARRIER MK.II

This exiting large-scale release is on the way soon from Gecko Models - maybe the Universal 'Bren' Carrier is the ideal subject for a 1:16 kit?

www.tankmuseumshop.org



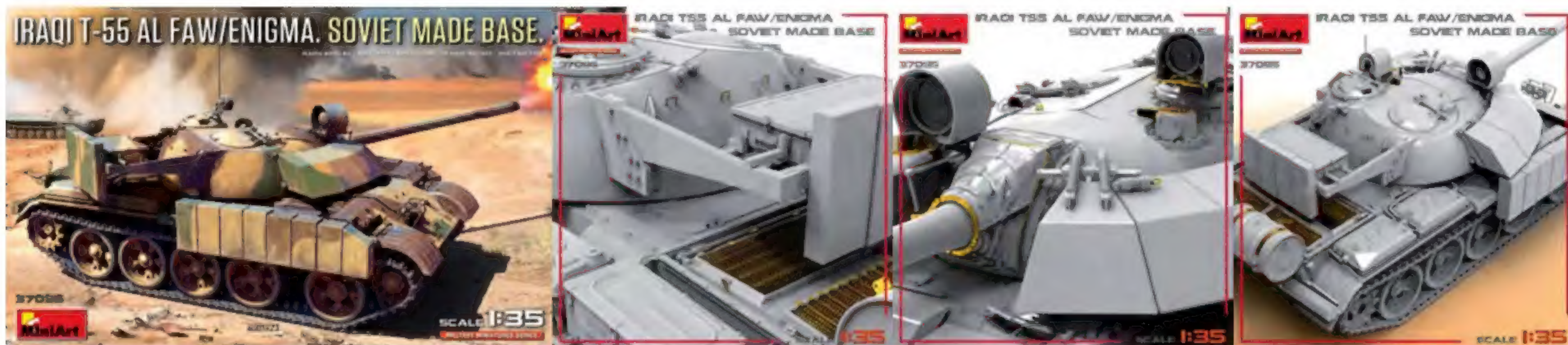
NEW FROM MINIART - 1:35 SD.KFZ.234/2 PUMA INTERIOR KIT

This is an all new kit of the well known 'Puma' WW2 German eight-wheeled armoured car and it will come with a fully detailed hull and turret interior, plus engine and bay. www.miniart-models.com www.creativemodels.co.uk



NEW FROM MINIART - 1:35 SD.KFZ.234/2 PUMA (NO INTERIOR)

For modellers who don't want or need internal detailing, MiniArt will also release their Sd.Kfz.234/2 Puma that excludes most of the innards. www.miniart-models.com www.creativemodels.co.uk



NEW FROM MINIART - 1:35 IRAQI ARMY T-55 AL FAW/ENIGMA

Using a base model of their excellent T-55, MiniArt are to release the up-armoured Iraqi Army 'Enigma' version as deployed in the Gulf War. Expect lots of parts! www.miniart-models.com www.creativemodels.co.uk



NEW FROM TAMIYA 1:35 LEOPARD 2A7V MAIN BATTLE TANK

As you can read on pages 8 to 11 this issue, Tamiya have created an all-new 1:35 kit of this modern German army MBT and it is absolutely magnificent. A metal barrel has also been made for the model.

www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net



NEW FROM TAMIYA 1:35 GERMAN KS600 MOTORCYCLE & SIDECAR

This is a new-tool release, on its way soon from Tamiya.

www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net



NEW FROM TAMIYA 1:35 GERMAN MACHINE GUN TEAM SET MID-WWII NEW-TOOL

The sculpting of these all-new figures is astonishing - more details soon. www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net



NEW FROM TAMIYA 1:16 RC M4 SHERMAN 105MM HOWITZER FULL-OPTION KIT

To celebrate fifty years since its original launch, Tamiya has given the 105mm-equipped M4 Sherman the 'Full Option' treatment with high-tech controls, sound and lighting.

www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net

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GERMAN MAIN BATTLE TANK LEOPARD 2 A7V



1/35 ミリタリーミニチュアシリーズ NO.387
ドイツ連邦軍主力戦車 レオパルト2 A7V
★後部前方に追加装甲を備えたマッシュパスタイルなど、A7Vの特徴を忠実に再現。
★ドイツ連邦軍第393戦車大隊所属などのマーキング3種類をセット。
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★DETAILED SCALE MODEL FOR HOBBYISTS
★AGE 14 AND ABOVE. THIS IS NOT A TOY
★MODEL MAY VARY FROM IMAGE ON BOX
★CEMENT AND PAINT NOT INCLUDED



1/35 SCALE
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.387

★POWERFUL LEOPARD 2 A7V FORM WITH FRONT ADDITIONAL ARMOR PLATE AND UPDATED TURRET REAR SHAPE IS FAITHFULLY CAPTURED BASED ON EXTENSIVE RESEARCH OF ACTUAL TANK
★MUD FLAPS ARE DEPICTED ON THE TURRET REAR SIDES
★SNAP TOGETHER ASSEMBLY TYPE TRACKS ★PHOTO-ETCHED PARTS RECREATE ENGINE GRILLE MESH AND TURRET-SIDE BASKET SECTIONS

KIT PREVIEW

SPOTTING LEOPARDS

Tamiya's 1:35 Leopard 2A7V is all-new for 2024, so what's in the box?

In 2019, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann handed over the first of 104 Leopard 2 main battle tanks upgraded to the A7V standard to the Bundeswehr, at a ceremony held in Munich. German troops received the remaining tanks by 2023. The contract worth \$843 million (€760 million) to modernise Bundeswehr's fleet of Leopard tanks was signed in 2017. The involves transforming a total of sixty-eight Leopard 2A4, sixteen Leopard 2A6 and twenty Leopard 2A7MBTs and bringing them up to A7V standard (edited from www.defensemirror.com).

The big news from Tamiya at this year's Nuremberg Toy Fair show was the announcement of an all-new 1:35 kit of the Leopard 2A7V main battle tank in the Military Miniatures Series. It's important to note that this is a 100% new tooling which uses no parts at all from the 2003-issued Leopard 2A6 (35242). All the changes one would expect to see on a 2A7V are depicted in sharp detail and the new kit comes with photo-etched parts for the turret stowage bins and other items. The tracks are new too, taking the form of upper and lower runs moulded in

two halves, with articulated individual links for the drive sprockets and idlers. A pair of crew figures are provided and they can be fitted with helmets or berets according to the modeller's preference. An aluminium main gun barrel is on the way for this kit (for separate purchase) and as nice as it is, the kit-supplied item is superbly detailed, one-piece moulding that is more than adequate for the job. Tamiya's new kit is a deeply impressive production and it will build into a stunning replica of this vast beast, arguably the best main battle tank currently in service. *

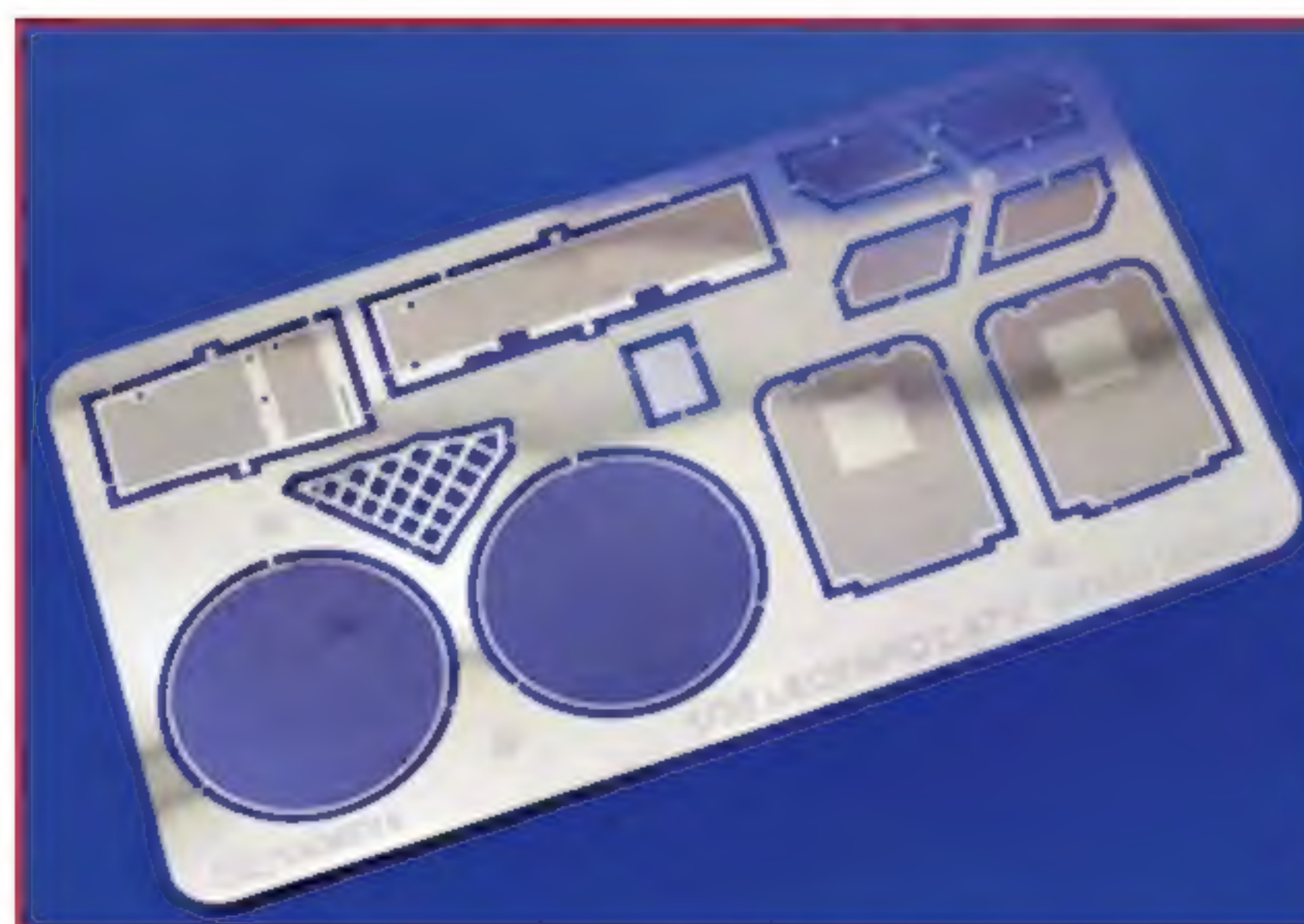
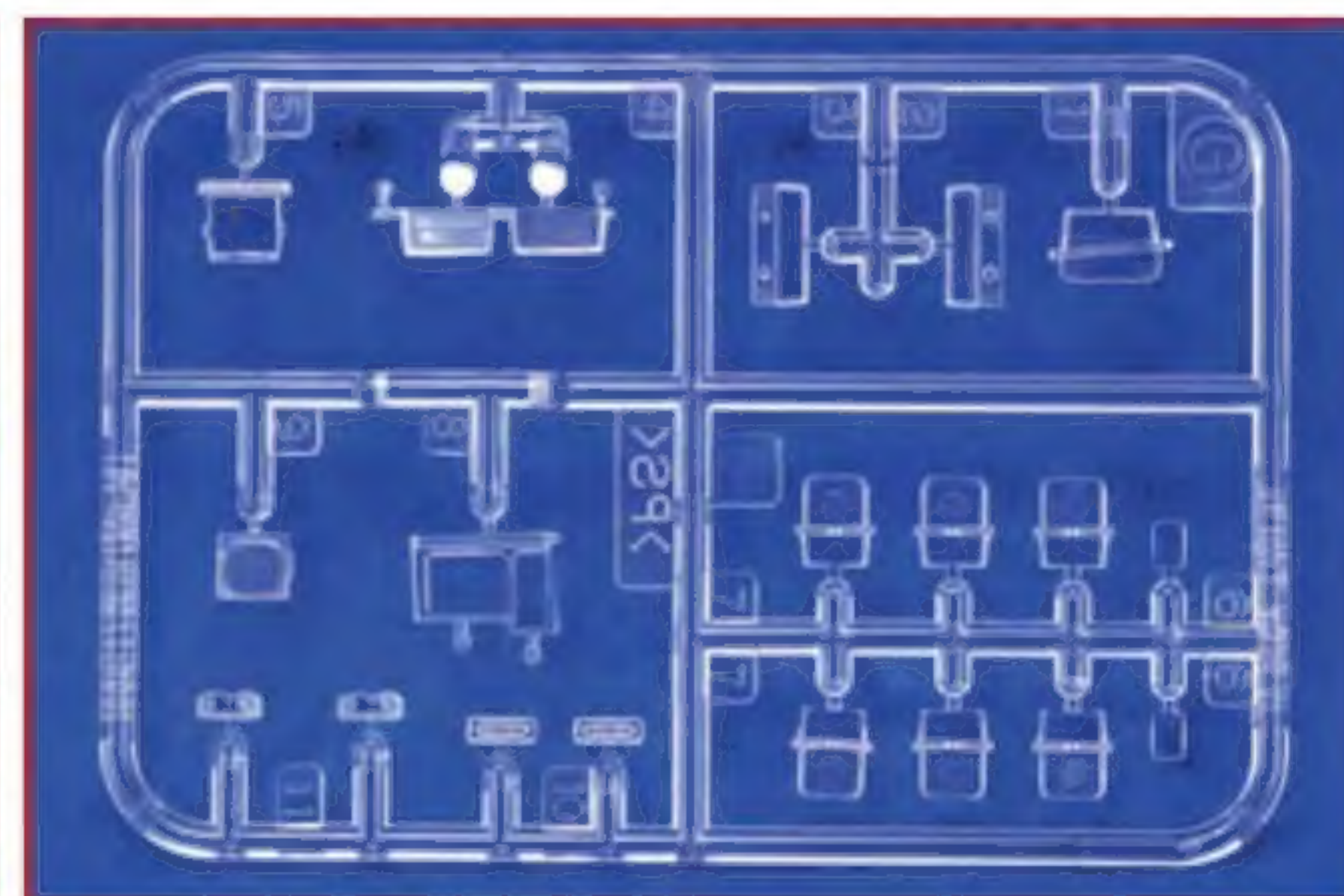
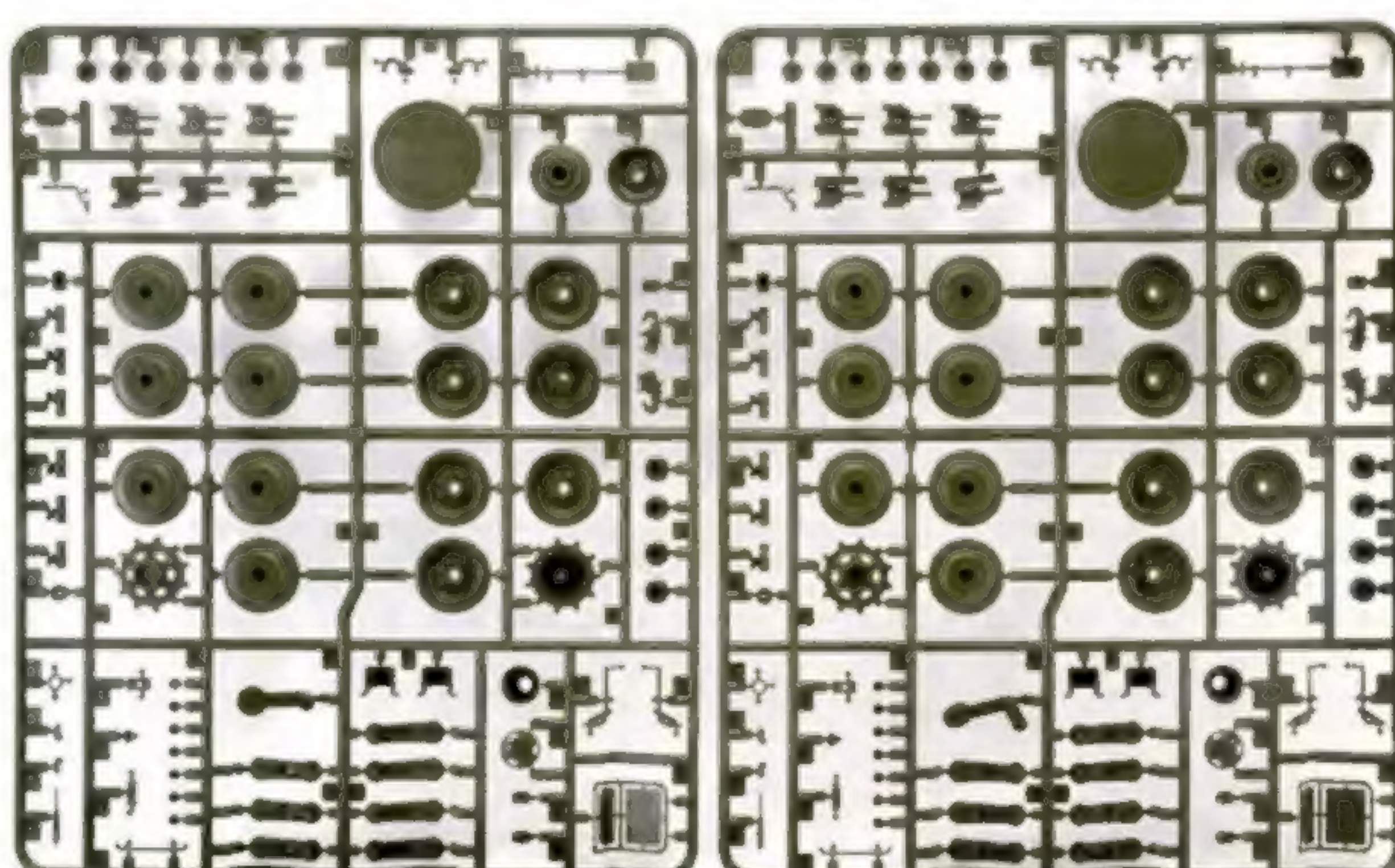
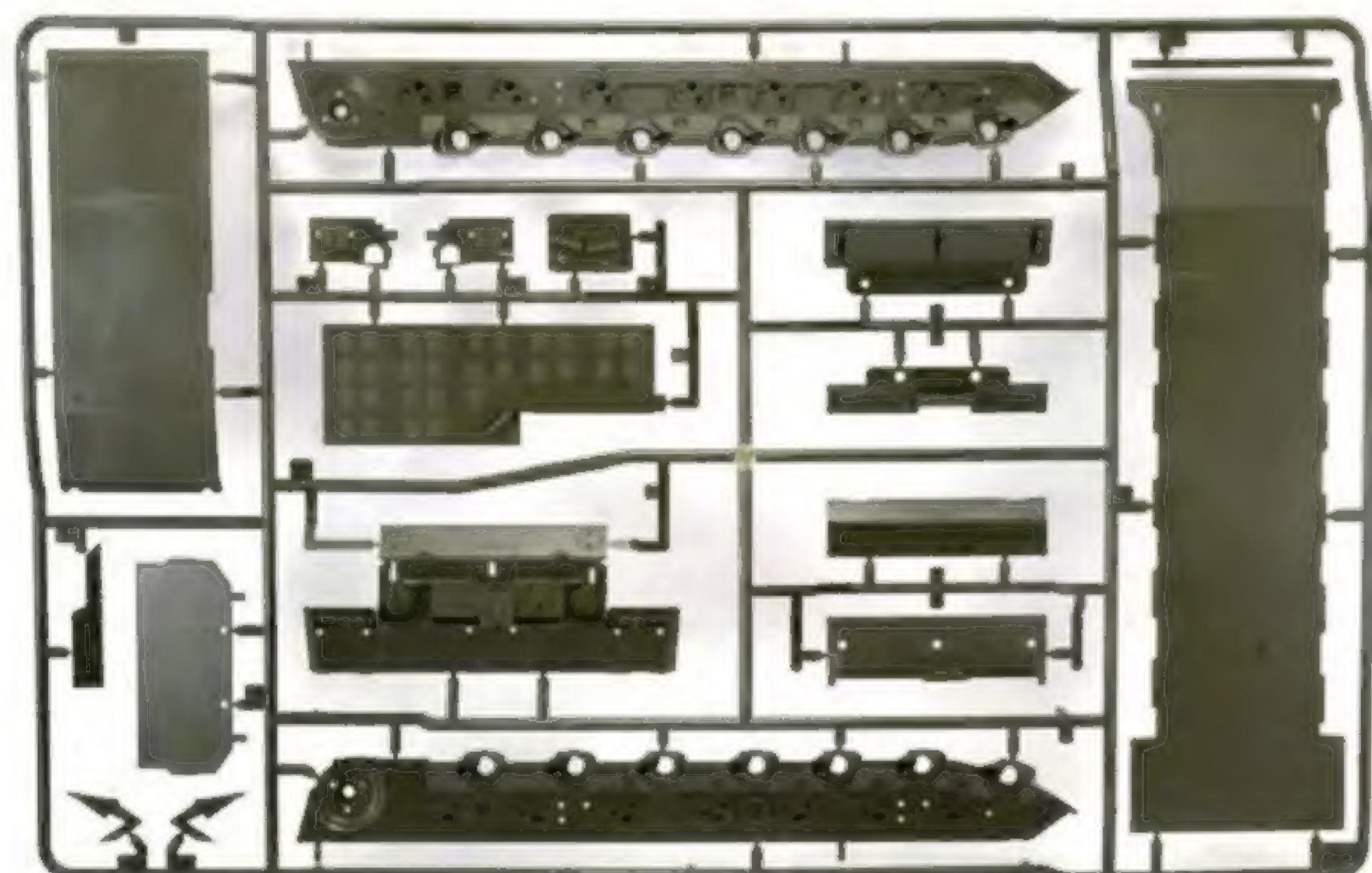
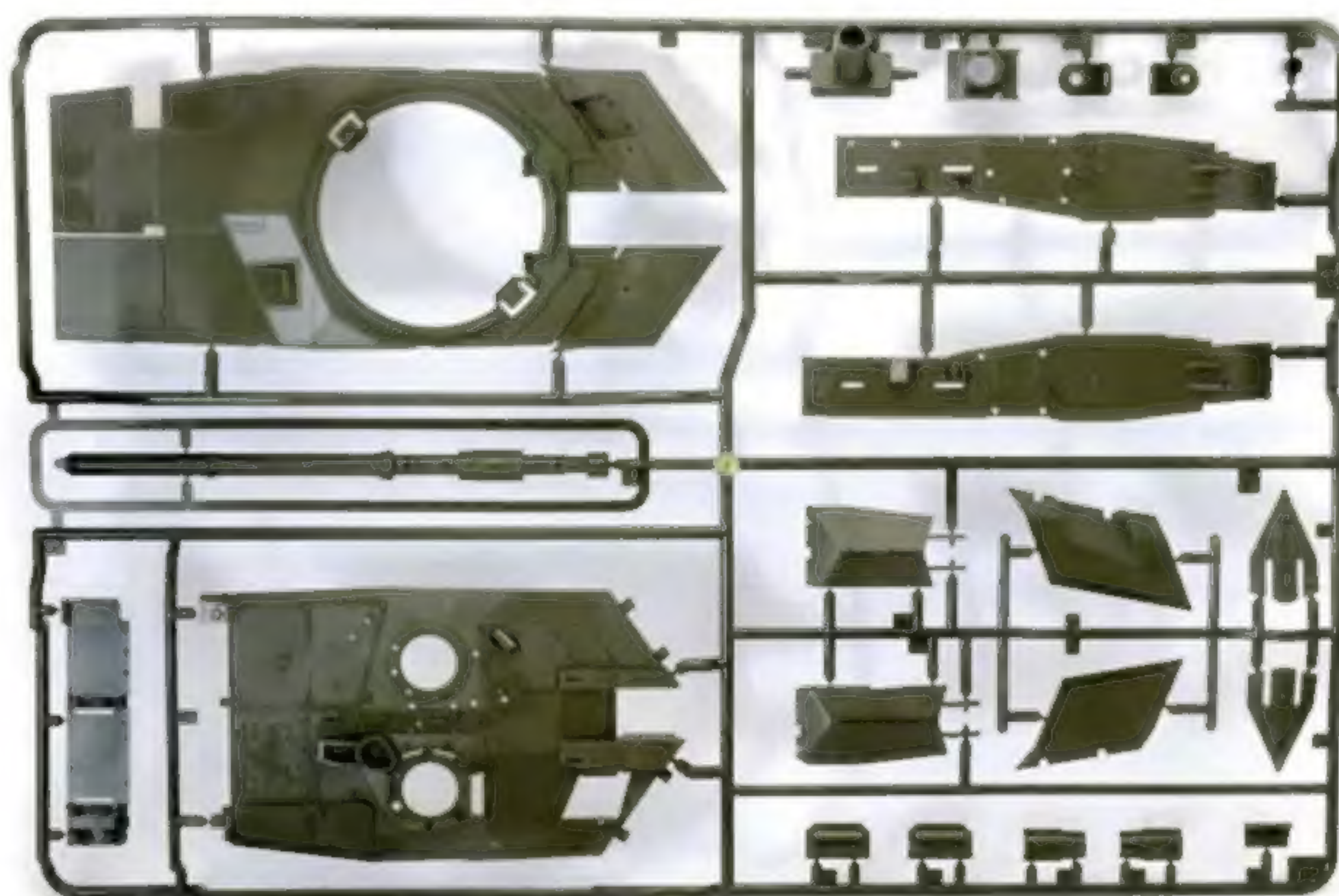
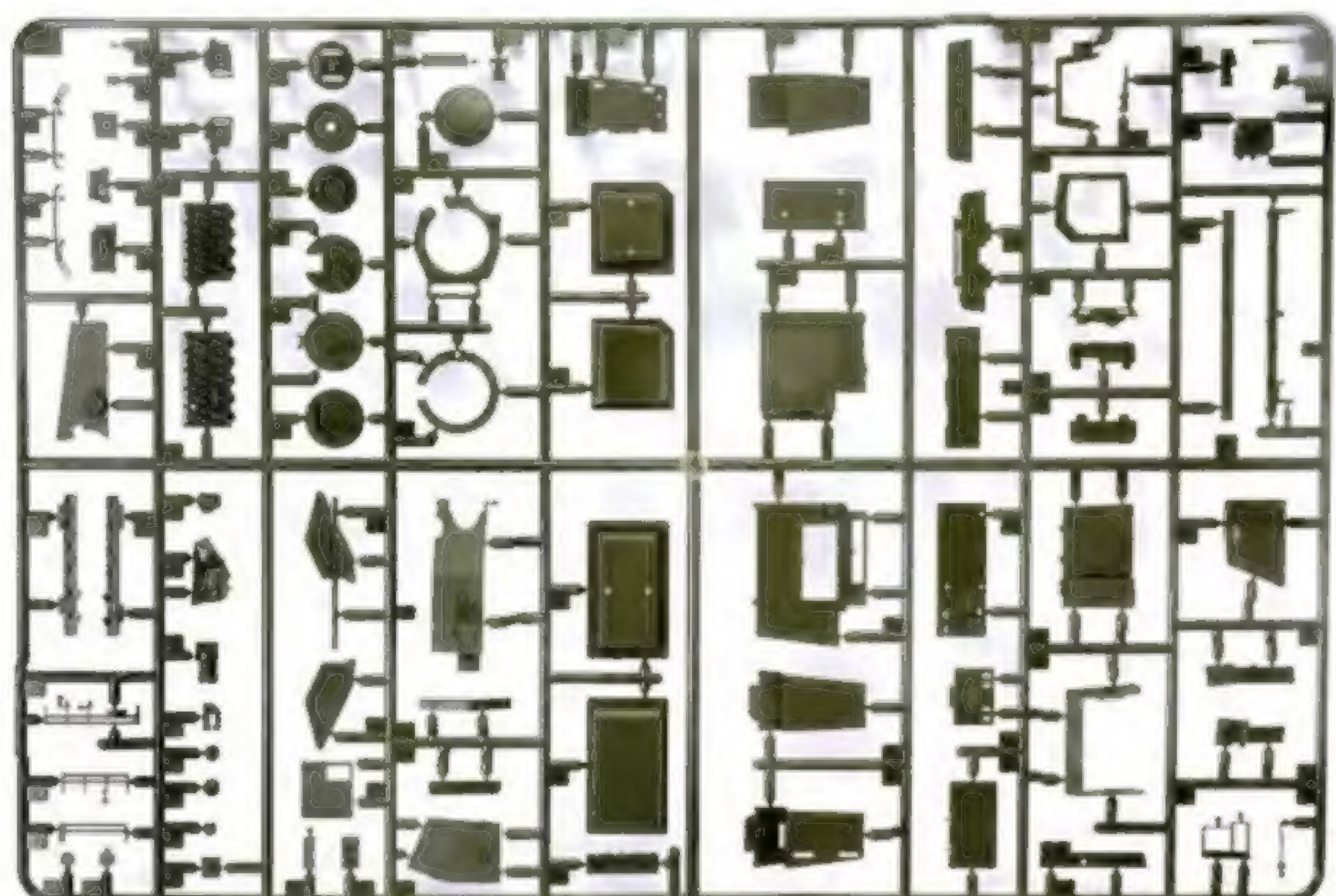
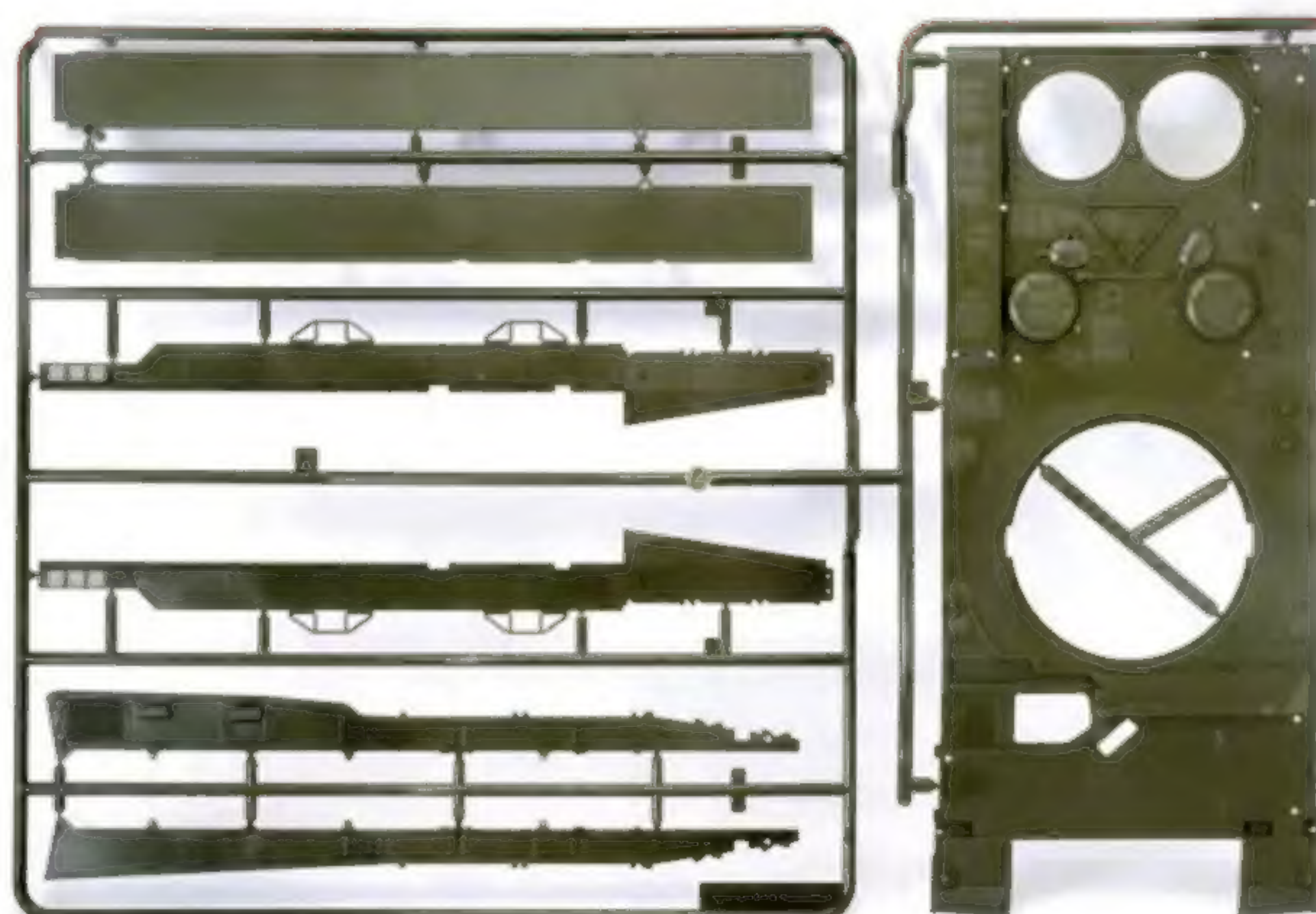
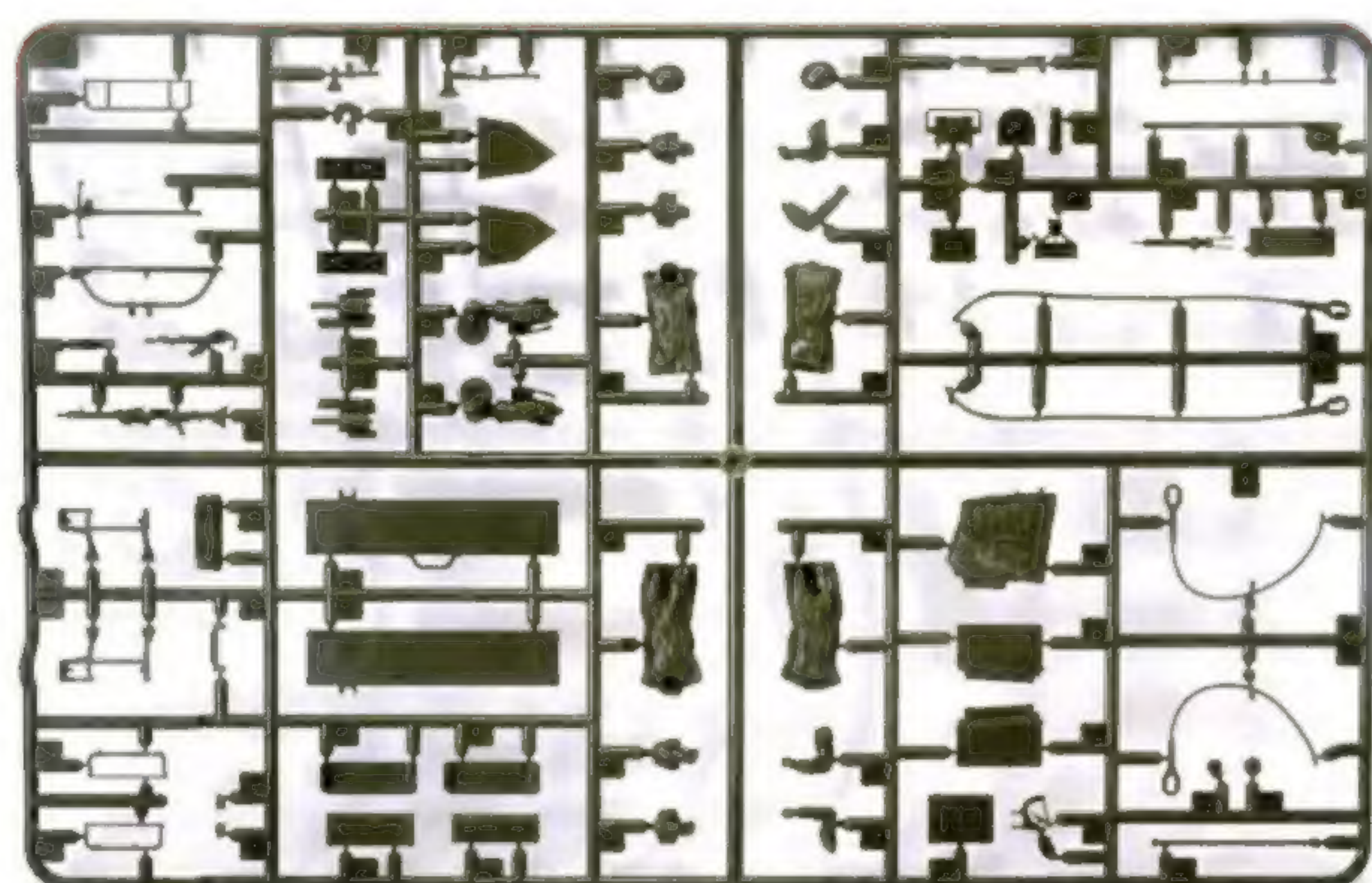


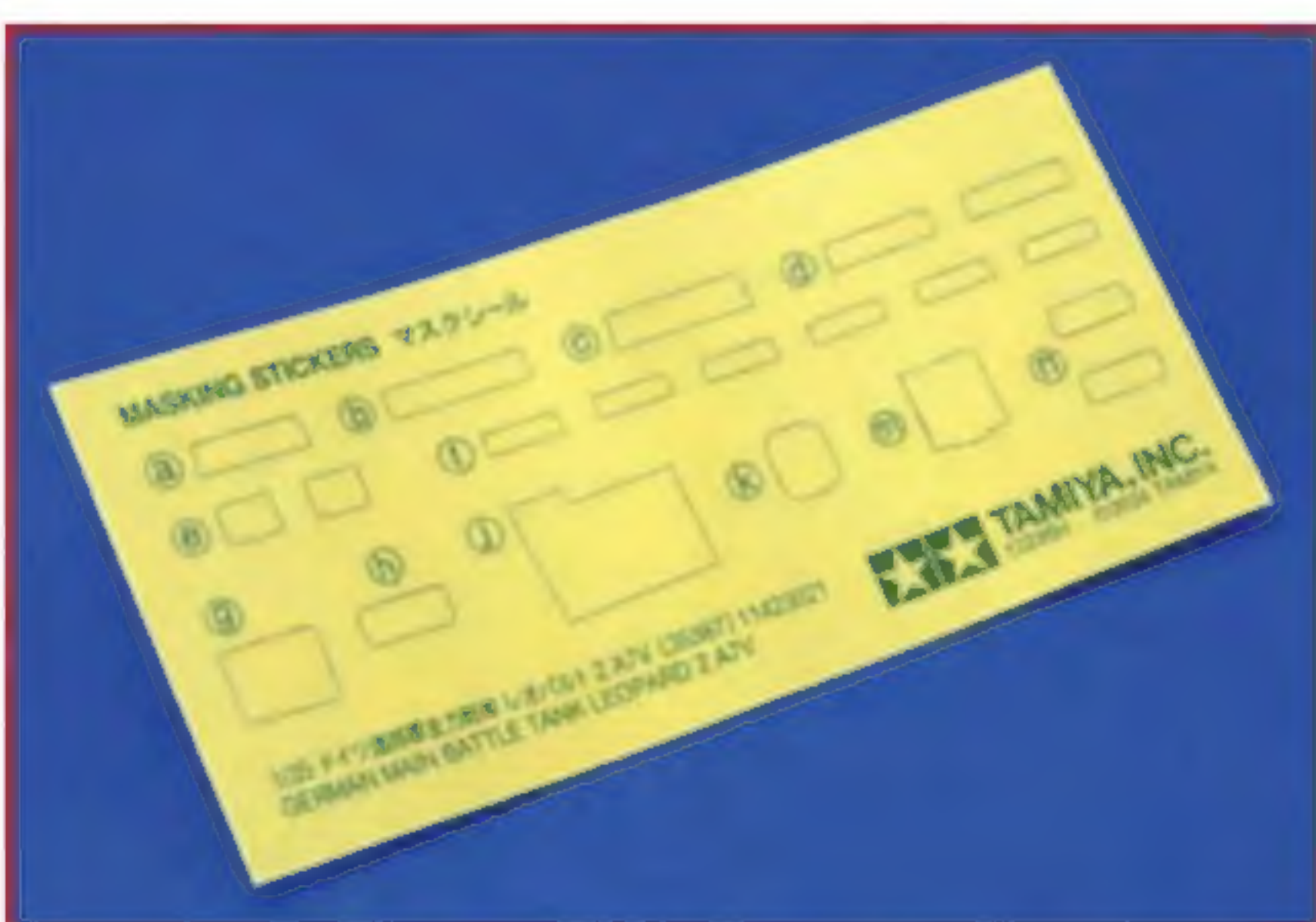
Photo-etched metal parts are provided for the engine screens, stowage bins and more



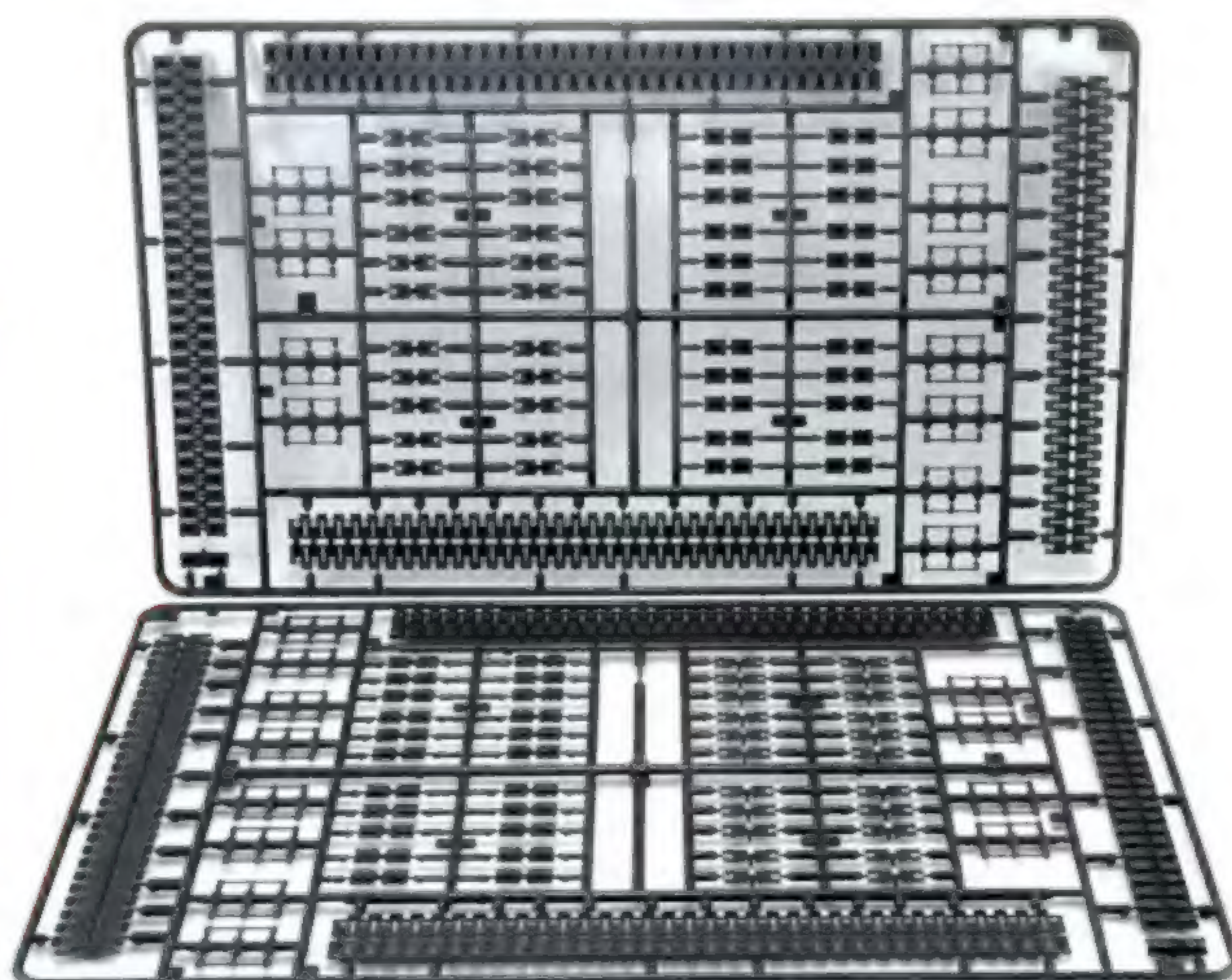
Instead of pre-cut acetate pieces, the 2A7V comes with vision blocks and periscopes moulded in clear, a big improvement



Tamiya models, paints, materials and accessories are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net



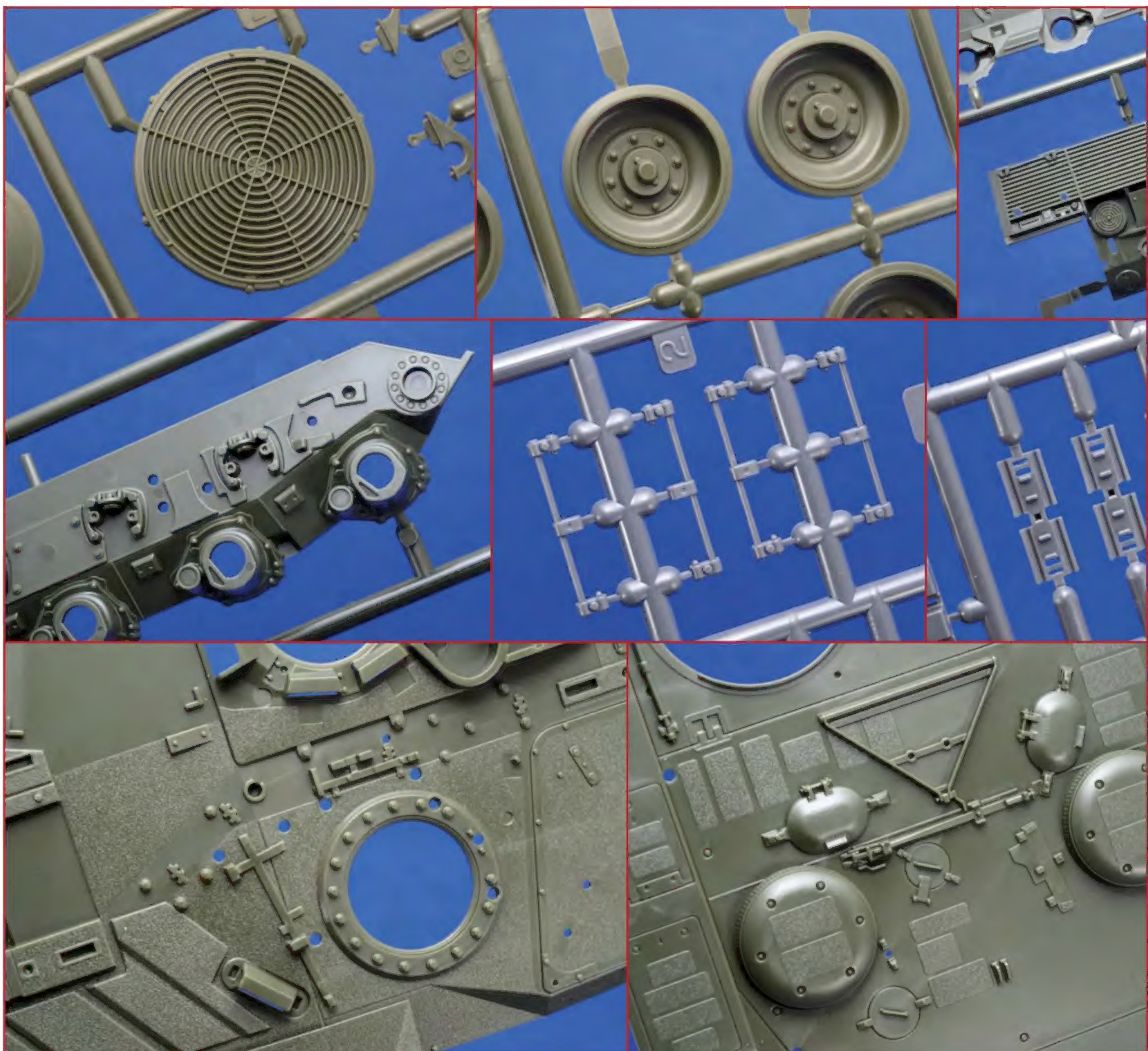
A sheet of printed, self-adhesive masks are provided for the aforementioned vision blocks: simply cut along the line with a fresh blade and apply with tweezers

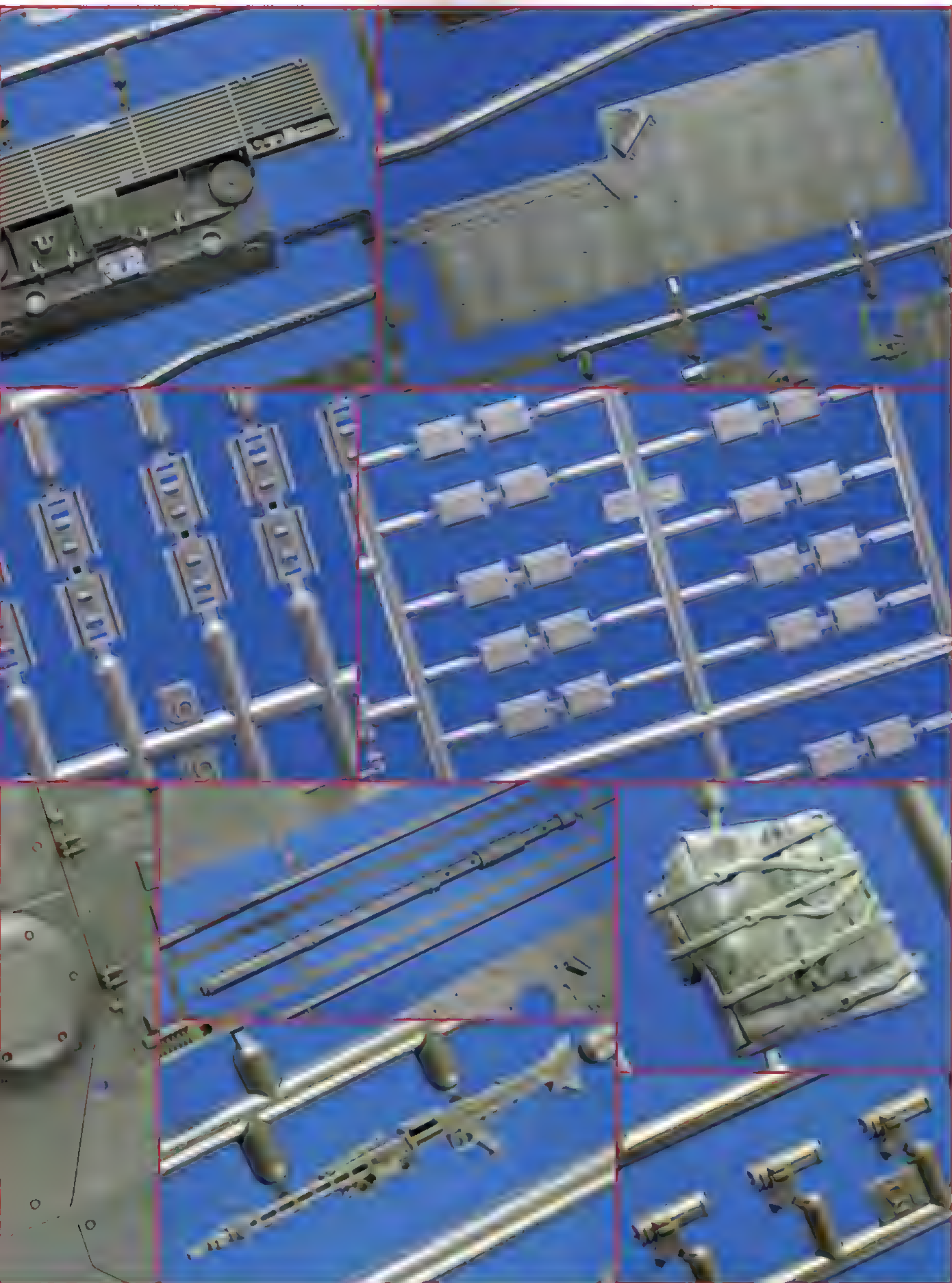




The two-man crew come with heads equipped with berets and helmets

A full-build feature of this kit is currently underway in sister title Tamiya Model Magazine - subscribe here: www.doolittlemedia.com





The reconfigured smoke dischargers are not provided with chains for their caps, so the modeller might wish to add their own

LEVEL 4

03796 Eurofighter Typhoon RAE 1:44

LEVEL 5

03802 F-16 Falcon 50th Anniversary 1:32

LEVEL 4

03816 Airbus A330-300 "Lufthansa" New Livery 1:144

LEVEL 4

03790 Arado AR E.555 (P-Series) 1:72

LEVEL 4

03804 Alouette II 1:32

Available from all good model stockists and online from

hobbycraft

hobbycraft.co.uk/brand/revell

STRYKER, LIGHT!

Stan Spooner scales down and builds the US Army's M1128 Mobile Gun System in 1:72...

The M1128 Mobile Gun System Stryker has everything going for it in the way of subject matter for a great model. At least a model that I would want to build! It has wheels – a lot of them – plus a big 105mm tank-gun. This subject matter is something I've always wanted to build, so when I first saw the 3R Model Transform 'Upgrade' kit of this mobile gun system coming out in 1:72 thought it would be a great opportunity for me to try my hand at 'braille-scale'. Admittedly, I am always inspired by Alex Clark and his amazing 1:72 models.

This man truly combines talent, art and technical excellence to a whole new level. As far as the Stryker goes as a subject matter, you just don't get any better than David Chou. Both of these guys have been friends of mine for a while and are truly inspirational builder. So, I looked to combine my understanding behind both of their work and take on this tiny, wheeled warrior. The vast majority of my models are either 1:35 or 1:48 armour, so, scaling everything that I normally do on my models down for 1:72, especially with the 'sausage fingers' that I have was going to be an interesting exercise.





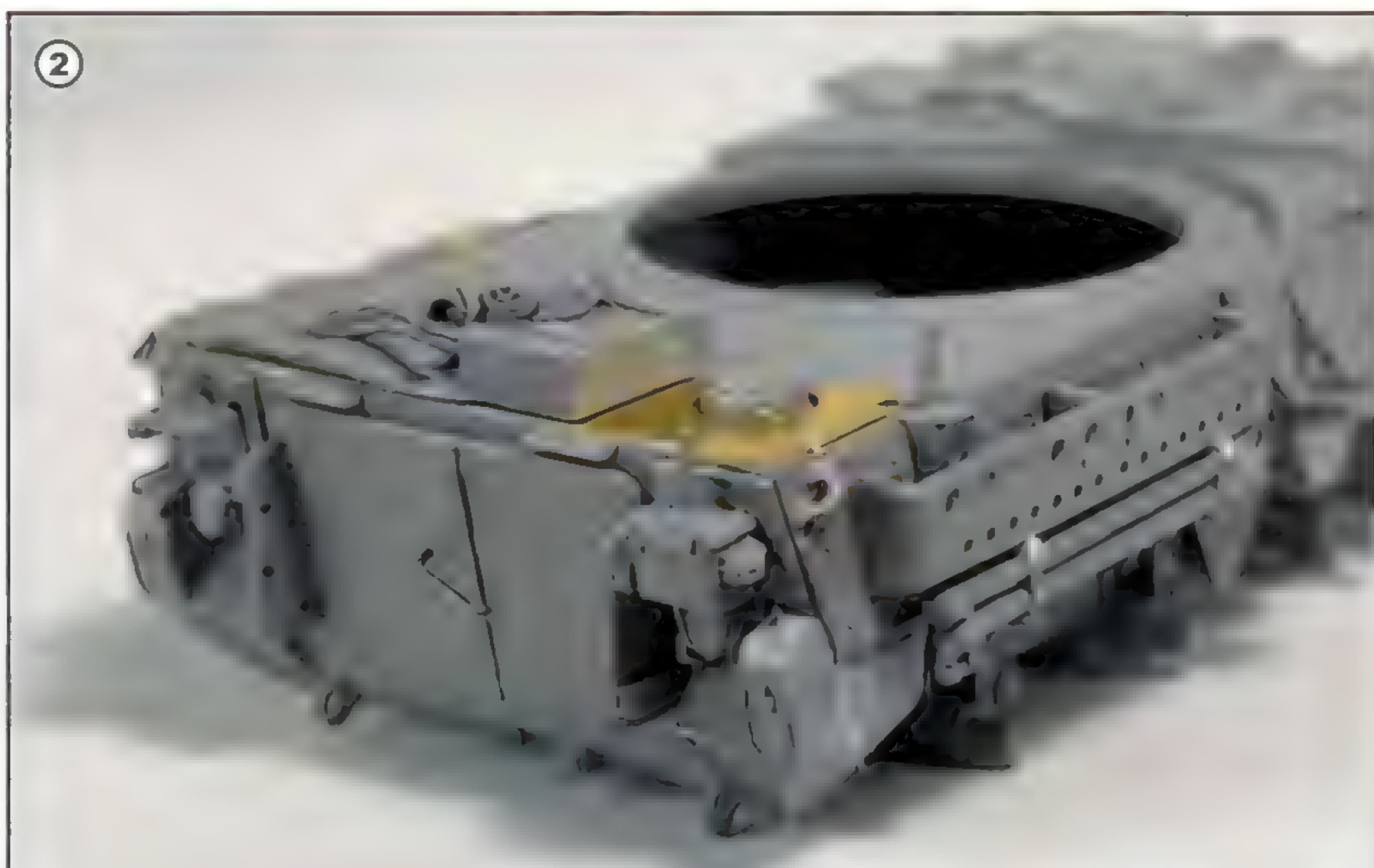
When you first open the box, the detail on the kit looks very impressive. The kit is well packaged and everything is easy to find. The 'Upgrade' version of the kit gives you a few more details to get you closer to the operational variant used by the US in the Middle East. There are several options for the .50 cal machine gun station on the turret, a small fret of photo-etch, the exterior-mounted air conditioner unit and a few other things.

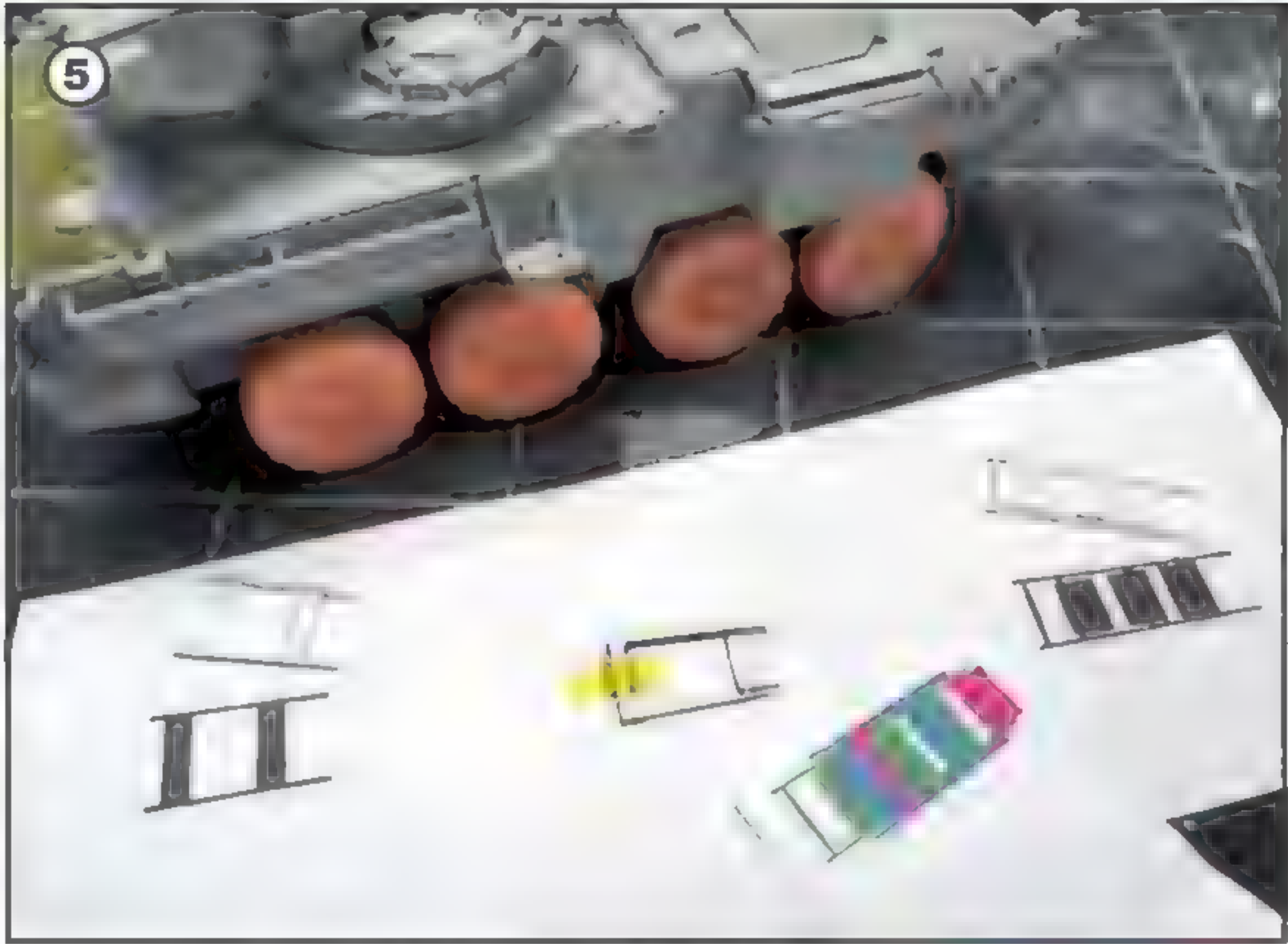
So, because I wanted to try to capture the look and feel of the initial version that was used operationally, this is the kit I needed. The other thing that you need for this build – which is a must-have – are the 3D resin printed wheels by 'Liang'. Although the standard wheels are combination of rubber and injected plastic and generally look nice, these resin wheels take it to a whole new level: the detail is amazing. So, with both the kit and wheels in hand, I moved forward (**pic 1**).

The building of the model is straightforward, although you need to pay attention to a few details so that you can better represent the actual vehicle. The lightning/vision holes were drilled in the metal plates either side of the rear entrance doors (**pic 2**), plumbing for the air-conditioning unit was added (**pic 3**), I thinned-down of the tool handles as well as replacing all of the plastic tabs that are moulded in place of actual grab handles and tie-downs with copper wire (**pic 4**). These are the type of details that keep the model in scale.

Beyond the standard items that we all usually pay attention to, one of the things that's missing from this model that is always in place on the operational vehicle is always a stepladder mounted to the right rear storage bin. This is used to gain access to several areas on the Stryker where there is no natural step provided. I needed to try to scratchbuild this and make it look the part when it was folded up and stowed.

The first thing I did was to take a photo of the actual stepladder and create a scale drawing in Adobe Illustrator, which gave me a template to build to. I used small pieces of Evergreen styrene rod and strips to create the stepladder while trying to channel my inner Alex Clark, but I was only marginally successful (**pic 5**). ➔



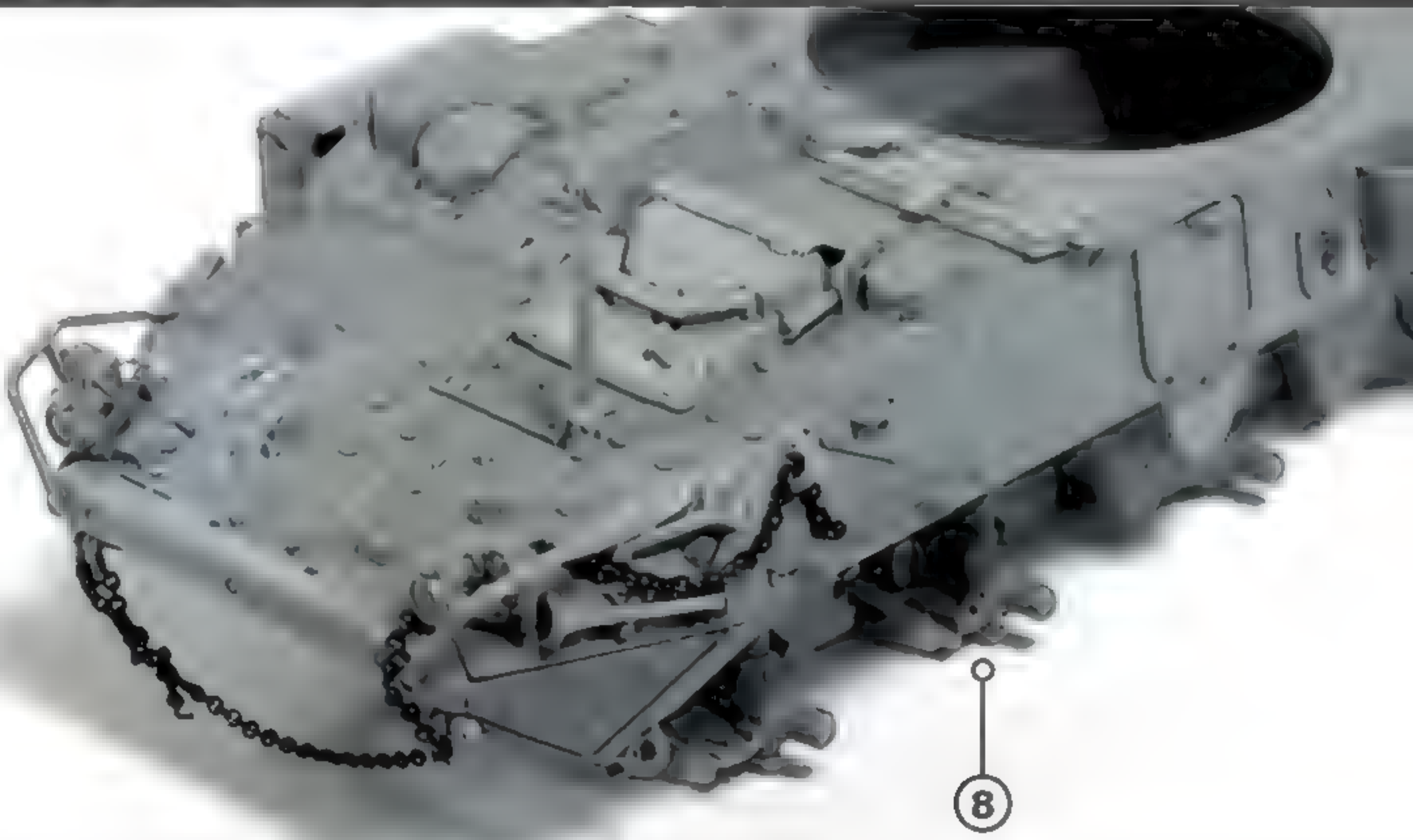
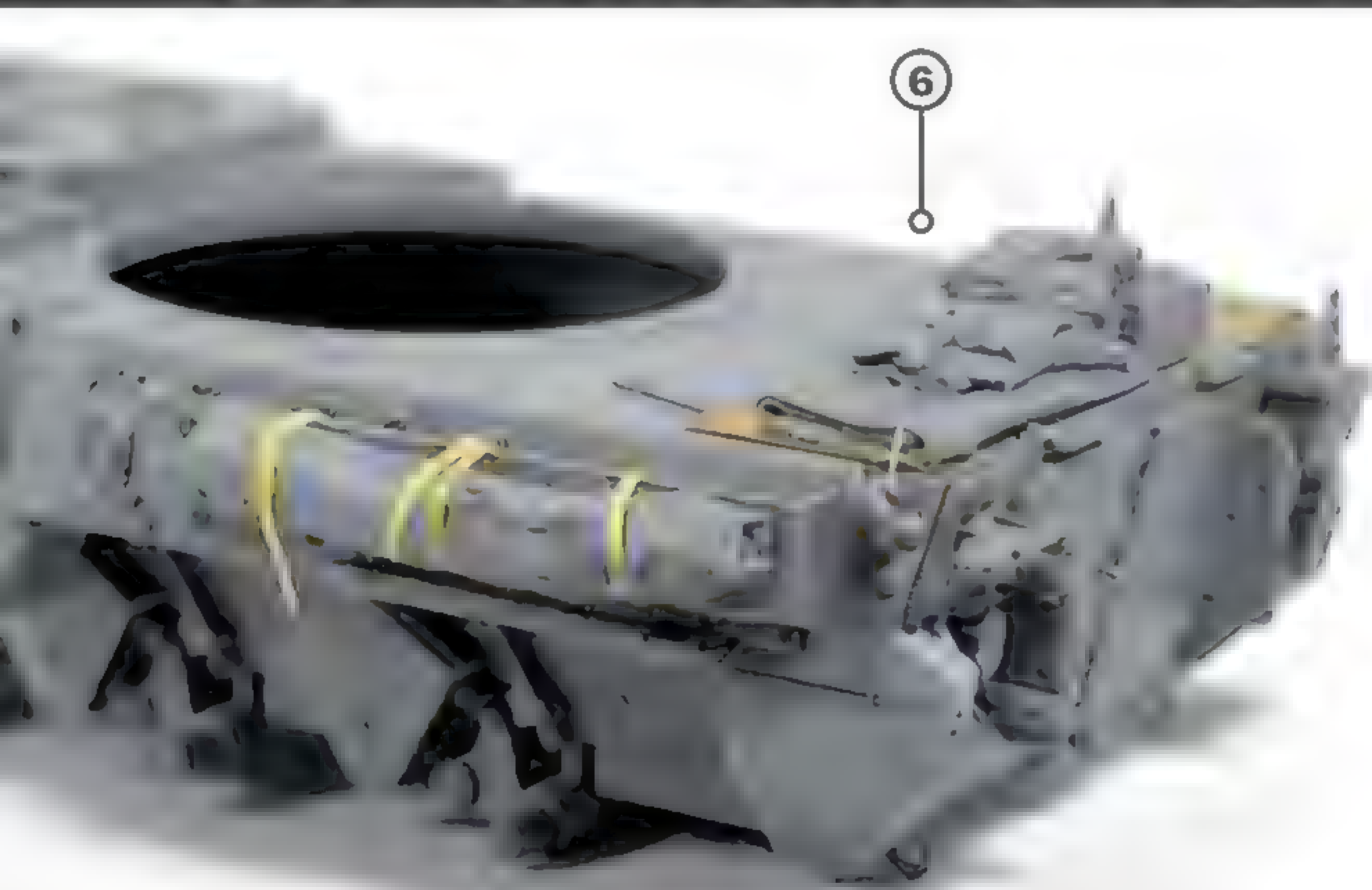


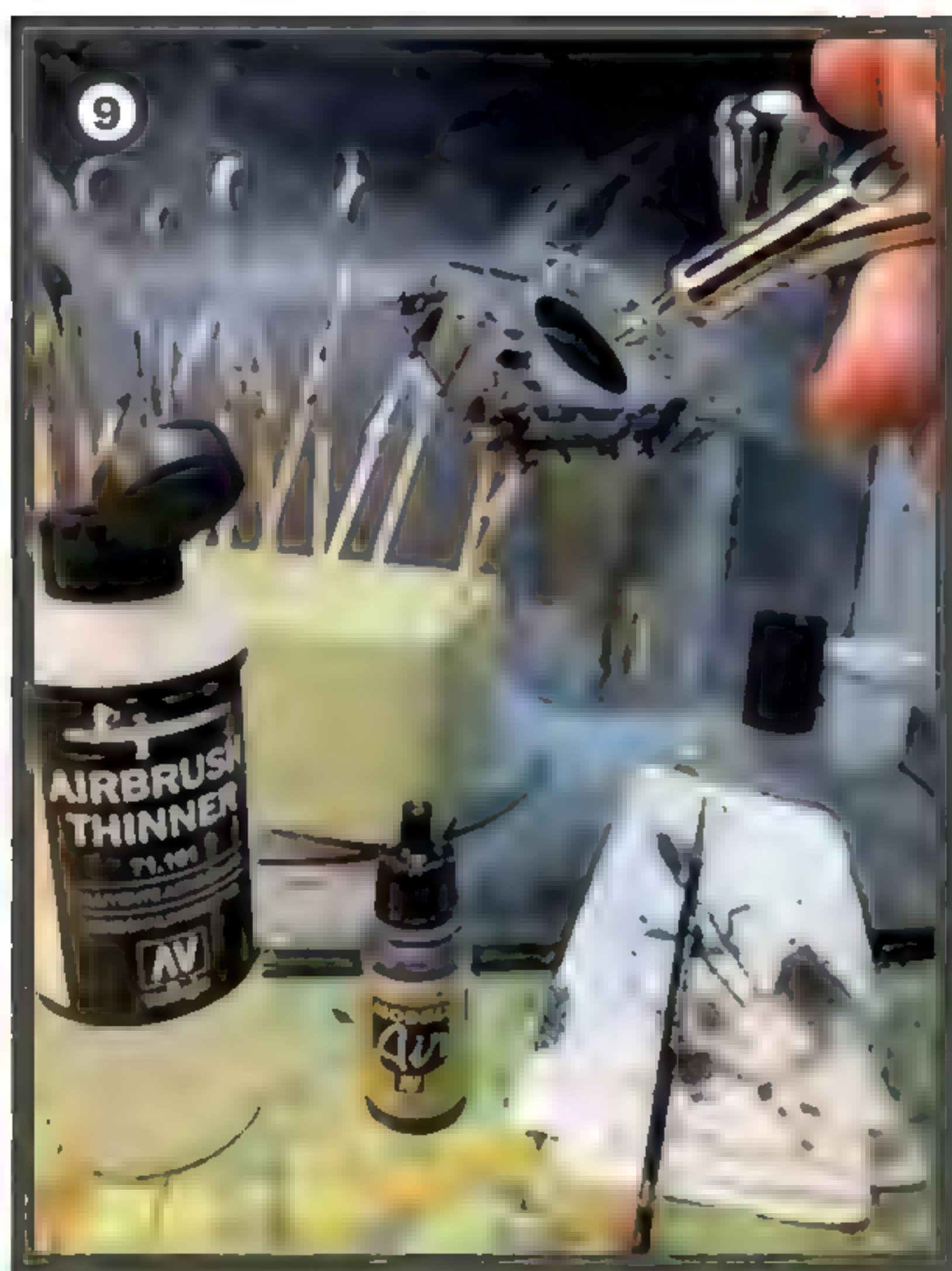
Once the construction phase was complete, I moved on to figuring out the stowage. The first source I turned to was Value Gear who are always a great option for a vast variety of tarps, rolls and boxes (pic 6). Once I figured out those items, I used a pack from Paracel Miniatures of Vietnam and some plastic cases from a modern US storage set. These vehicles typically didn't have a lot of stowage on them

but the one thing they did carry were spare fuel and water cans (pic 7). I had a good selection of 3D-printed modern cans that I placed in the appropriate stowage area. The last little bit of detail to be added, were tie-downs from copper wire, straps made of lead foil, some rope made of silk beading-string, draped tarps made of stretched and primed plumbers' tape and a small bit of towing chain (pic 8).

GOING GREEN

As Henry Ford once famously, said, "You can have any colour (Model A) you want, as long as it's black!" Well, that's sort of what you're looking at with the M1128, only the colour is green! Painting followed my usual steps: the entire model was finished with acrylics from the Vallejo paint range and I must tell you, I am thrilled with the way this paint performs.





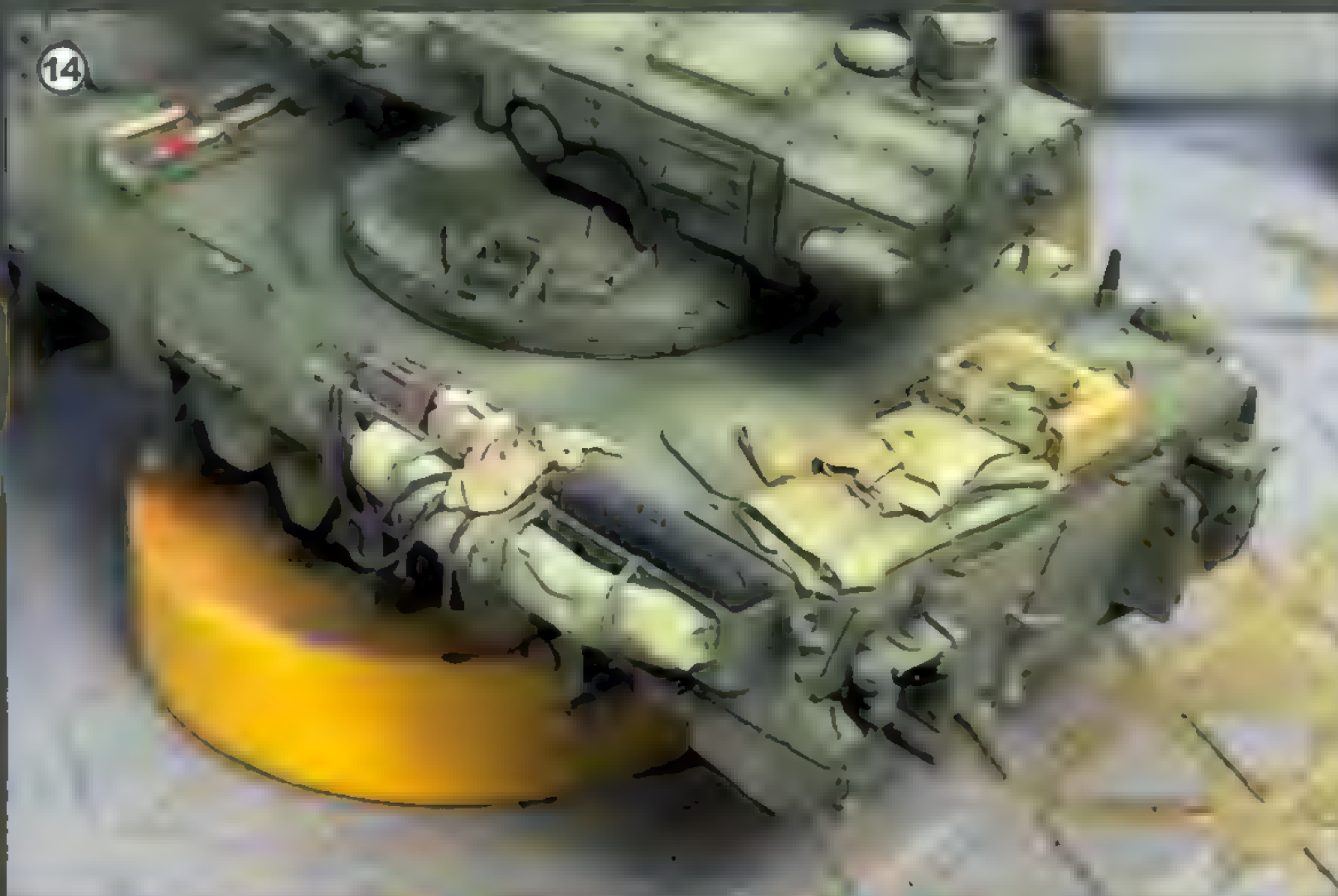
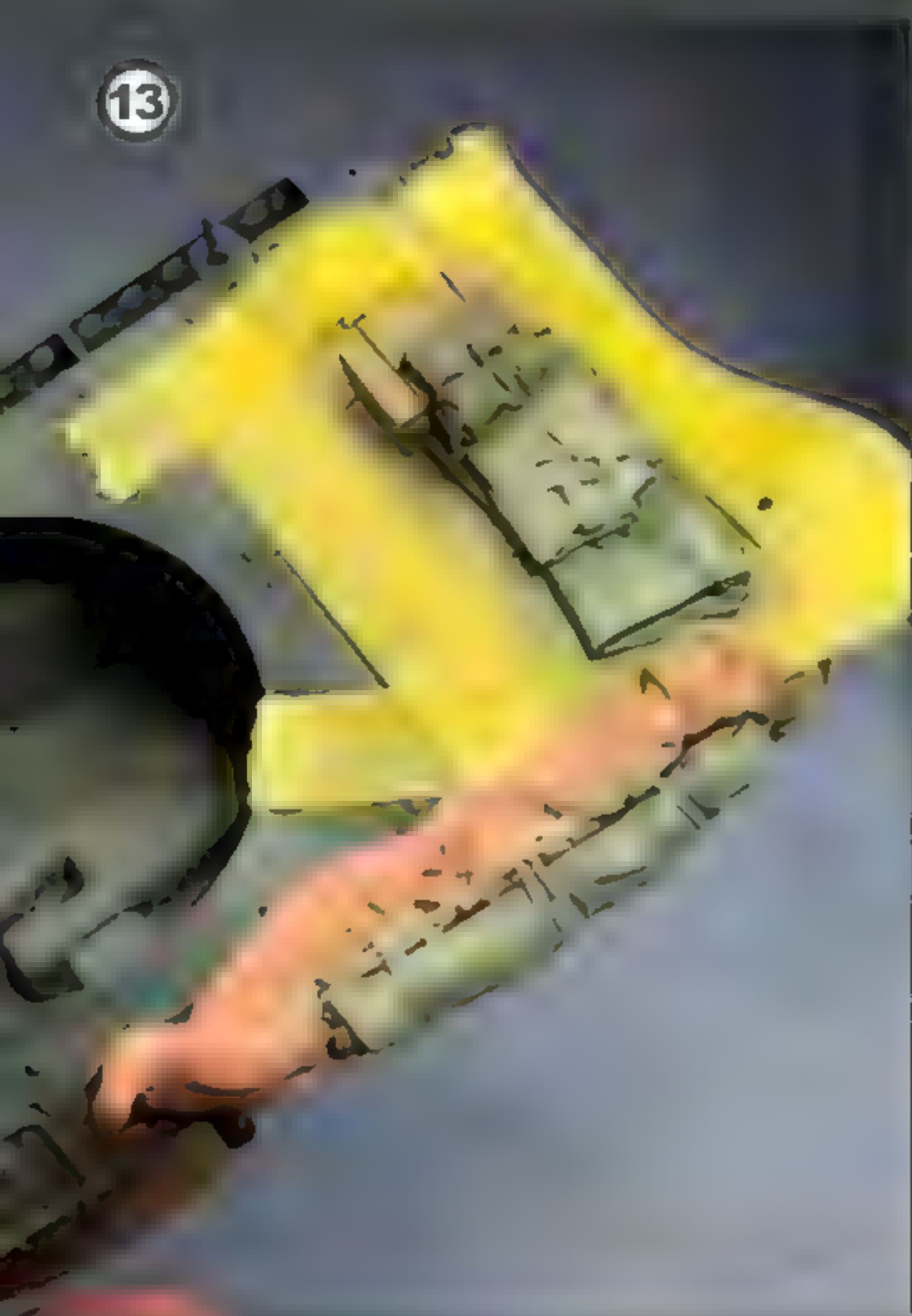
The pre-shading was done with a mixture of dark grey and black (**pic 9**) and then overall tones of green were layered on top of the model. Darker shades were used on the undercarriage area and lighter shades were applied as you moved up the vehicle. Highlights and shadows were created with specific mixes of the appropriate colour. The wheels were painted the same way and the tyres were painted with a custom mixture of tyre black and buff tan. A mix of buff tan colours were used to highlight the areas that have accumulated dry mud and dust around the wheel wheels and lower hull (**pics 10, 11, 12**).

One of the things that I learned from Steve Zaloga was to paint my stowage (when ever possible) in place. This creates a unified tone and pulls the colour range together, much more successfully than painting it off the

model and then gluing it in place. There are times that I paint the stowage first and then mask it and then paint the overall model. There other times, like on this model, that I chose to paint the overall model and then mask around the stowage and paint it in place.

The M1128 MGS didn't carry much in the way of stowed items, which made the painting of the stowage very easy. I used both Tamiya masking tape and Silly Putty to mask around the items (**pic 13**) and sprayed them the appropriate colours (**pics 14, 15**). The step ladder was one of the only items that was painted off of the model and then attached (**pic 16**). Key items such as the Alice pack's camouflage pattern, the tools, and other details were brush-painted with Vallejo paint (**pics 17, 18**). ➤



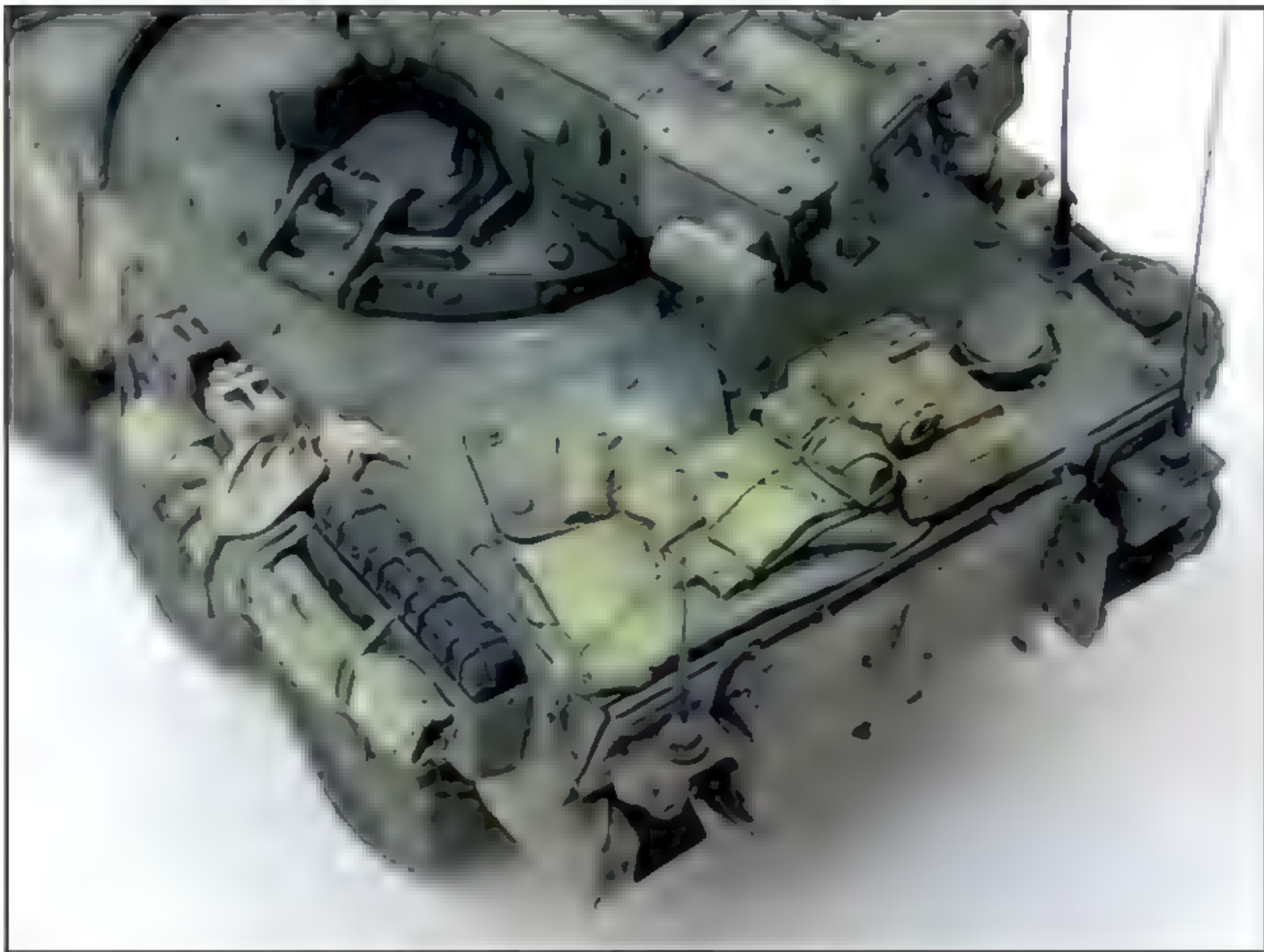


◀ APPLYING FILTERS AND GRIME

As I am just now learning how to use Vallejo filters, I did not feel sure enough in that process at this point of my build to use them so with that in mind, I used my usual artist's oil paints and turpentine to apply my filters in localised 'pin' washes (**pics 19, 20**). I knew how they would react, and I was comfortable controlling them. A model at the scale can't have any weathering effect that would become too heavy-handed. It would easily become out of scale. With that in mind, I used a very limited number of pigments.

I let the oils to a great degree tell the story. Once the filters were completed, I then went back and applied pin-washes to bring out the details. This helps defining spaces and individual elements. Again, at this scale is very easy to overdo things. In my research of the actual vehicle, they got very dusty and dirty on the lower half and just some total changes on the upper half so that's sort of the vibe I went for (**pic 21**). Once the washes and filters were finished, I gave the entire model a light dusting of Testors Dullcote. The last thing to do was to paint the vision blocks with a mix of Tamiya Silver and Clear Smoke. One last touch was to add antennae made of stretched sprue. ➤





◀ **IN THE END...**

At this point, I was able to step back and look at the overall model, and I was happy with the end results. It had the look and feel of what I was seeing in my research and that's what I was trying for. It was fun, trying a different scale, but it also made appreciate the skill of someone like Alex Clark, to turn out the models that he does consistently at this very tiny scale. Thanks to Marcus for the honour of sharing my build. I hope you guys enjoyed this project, I will be back with some more 'braille-scale' soon. With thanks, Stan Spooner @The Model Box •

MODELSPEC

3R MODEL TRANSFORM 1:72 STRYKER M1128 MGS UPGRADE KIT NO.TK 7009

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, synthetic rubber, tyres, photo-etched brass, waterslide decals

Paints used:

Various colours by Vallejo

Accessories used:

Liang: M1128 Stryker Sagged Wheels (LIANG-0435)

Availability:

3R MODEL TRANSFORM search online

- Liang: www.migjimenez.com

- Vallejo: www.creativemodels.co.uk



Stan Spooner is launching a new scale modelling venture called 'The Model Box' based in the USA. Check him out on Facebook and Instagram! (search 'The Model Box'). themodelbox.co



Best brass around

eduard

M3A2 HALF TRACK

Tamiya 1/35

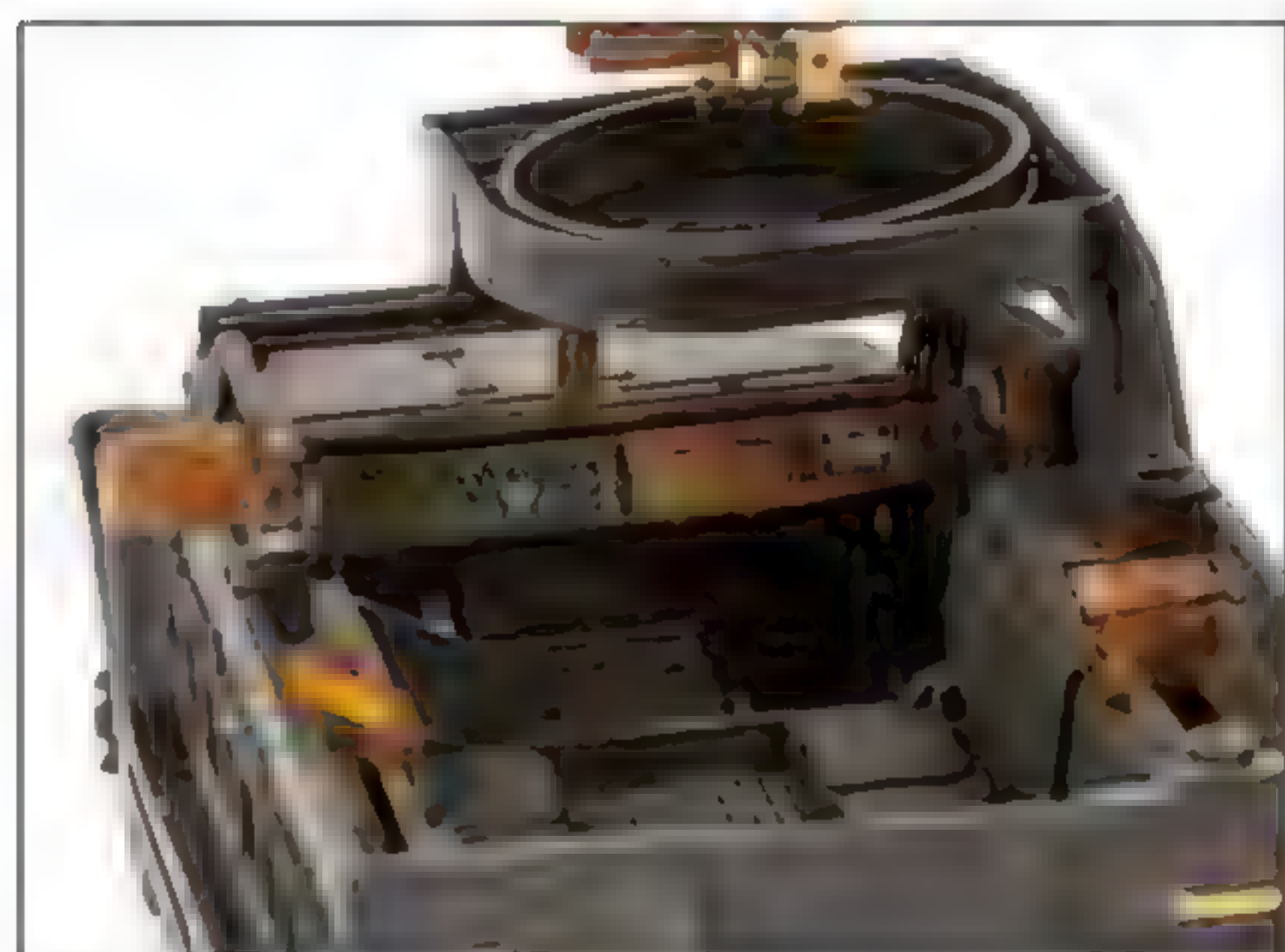


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NUREMBERG TOY FAIR 2024



MIM's Editor reports from the biggest toy fair in the world...

'That time of year' came around again, quicker than ever it seems... The Nuremberg Toy Fair would have a certain 'Groundhog Day' feeling too, were it not for the participating manufacturers showing off their fantastic new products for the coming months. This year's Toy Fair was also rather special as it saw the return of Ukrainian model manufacturers ICM and MiniArt, and it was wonderful to see our friends from these two companies in fine fettle and

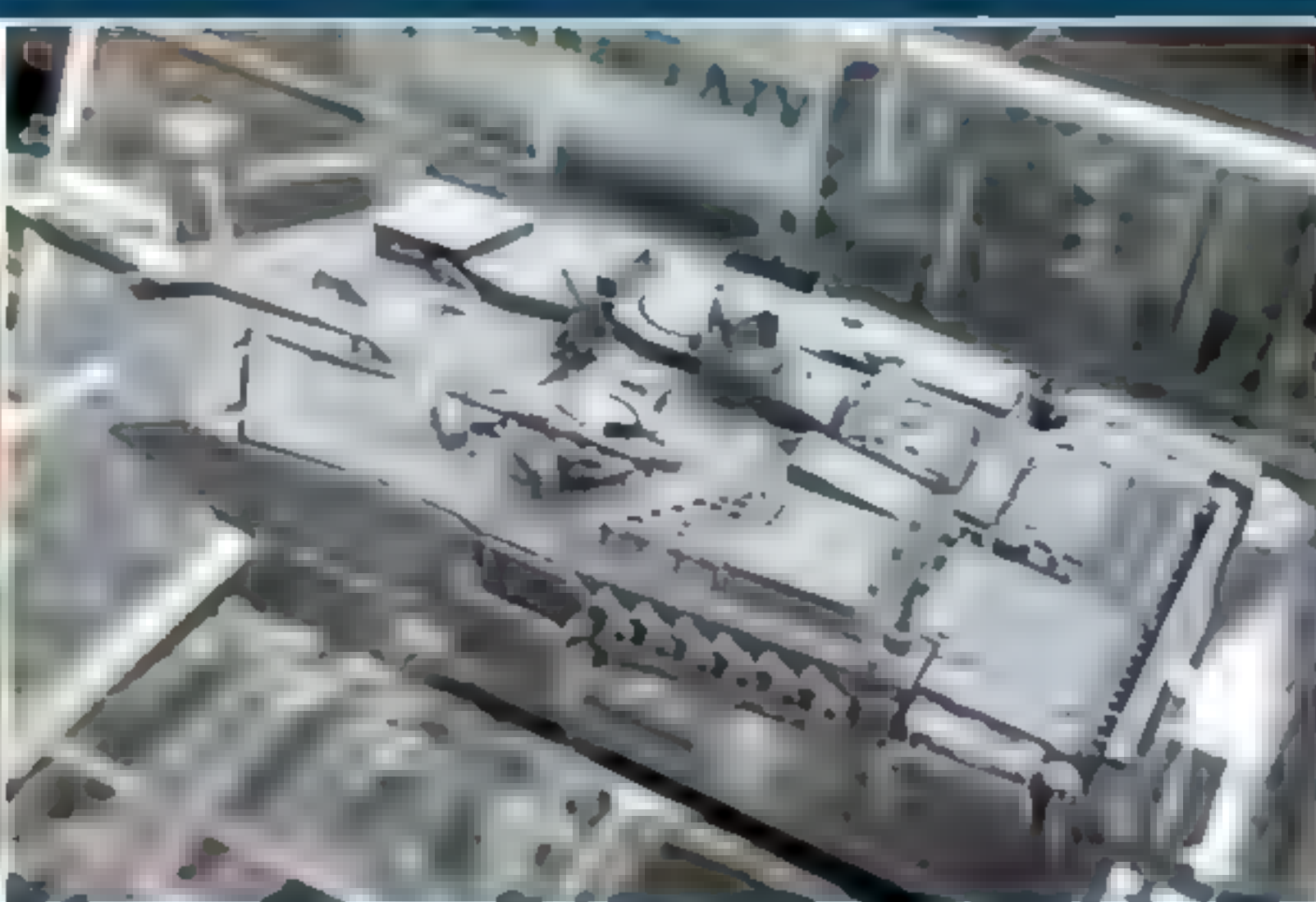
with lots of superb new kits on show. Bravo folks, and welcome back. Tamiya delighted us with an all-new 1:35 Leopard 2A7V plus a couple of brilliant new 1:35 figure sets, along with a host of other cool releases and welcome re-releases. Please enjoy the photos in this packed report and check out the manufacturers' websites for further information on the products shown here.

TAMIYA
www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net

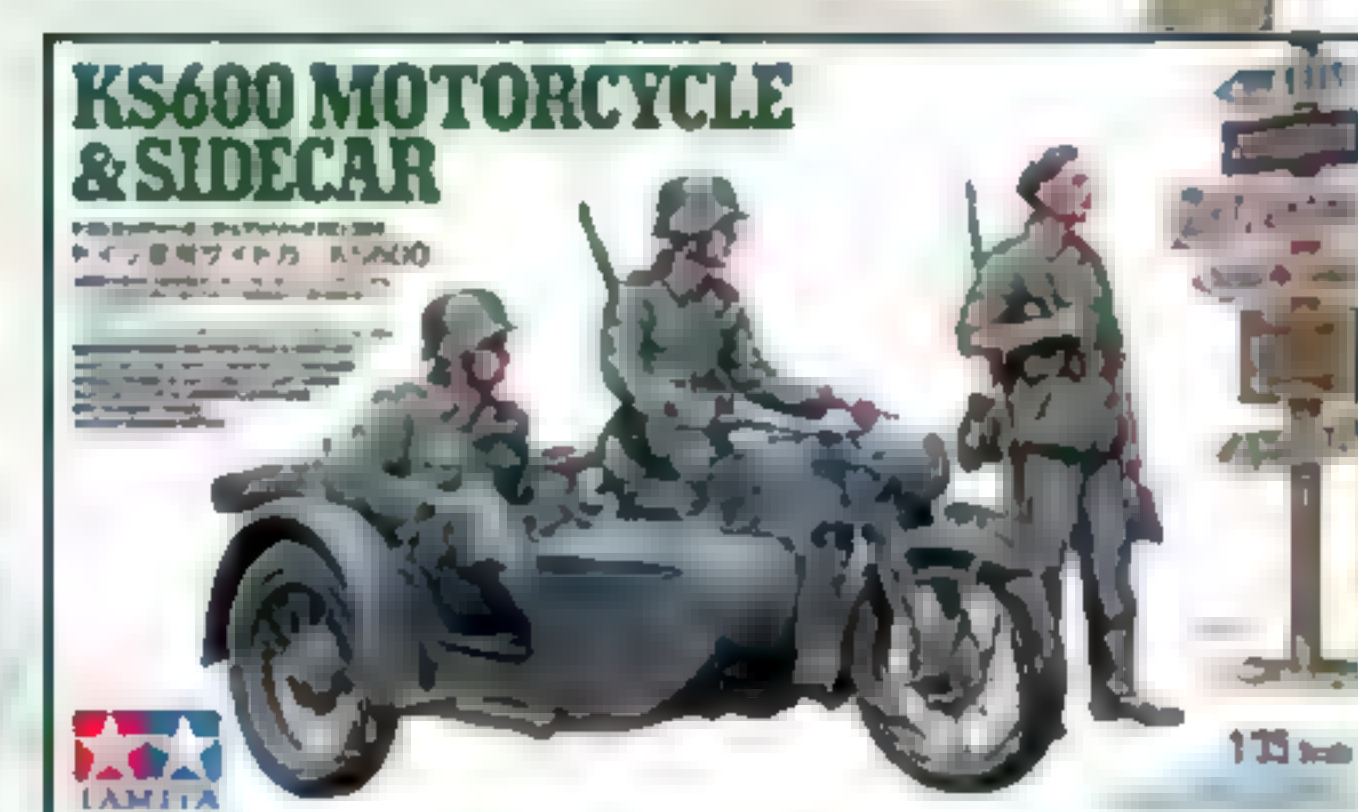
The big news from Tamiya at this year's show was an all-new 1:35 kit of the modern German army's Leopard 2A7V main battle tank in the Military Miniatures Series. It's important to note that this is a 100% new tooling which uses no parts at all from the 2003-issued Leopard 2A6 (35242). All the changes one would expect to see on a 2A7V are depicted in sharp detail and the new kit comes with photo-etched parts for the turret stowage bins and other items. The tracks are new too, taking the form of upper and lower runs moulded in two halves, with articulated individual links for the drive sprockets and idlers. A pair of crew figures are provided and they can be fitted with helmets or berets according to the modeller's preference. An aluminium main gun barrel is on the way for this kit (for separate purchase) and as nice as it is, the kit-supplied item is superbly detailed, one-piece moulding that is more than adequate for the job.



The Leopard 2A7V is completely new from top to bottom



The Leopard 2A7V has a new aluminium gun barrel, available to buy separately



Tamiya 1:35 Military Miniatures Series German KS600 Motorcycle & Sidecar (35384) new-tool



Tamiya 1:35 Military Miniatures Series German Machine Gun Team Set Mid-WWII (35386) new-tool



TAMIYA CONTINUED



Tamiya 1:48 Military Miniatures Series British two-ton 4x2 Ambulance



Tamiya 1:16 RC M4 Sherman 105mm Howitzer Full-Option Kit

ALBION ALLOYS www.albionhobbies.com

We often have to remind ourselves that as well as making fantastic metal profiles for scale modellers, Albion Alloys are also the UK and Eire distributors for some high-end model manufacturers too, including Das Werk, Border Model, Thunder Model, Dora Wings, Uschi van der Rosten, SMS paints, Flex-I-File, Mr Hobby, Aerdes, VMS and Model Scene.



Matthew John of Albion Alloys shows off the phenomenal Das Werk 1:35 kit of the 8.8cm Flak auf 9t VOMAG anti-aircraft gun truck



Many prestigious brands are distributed by Albion!



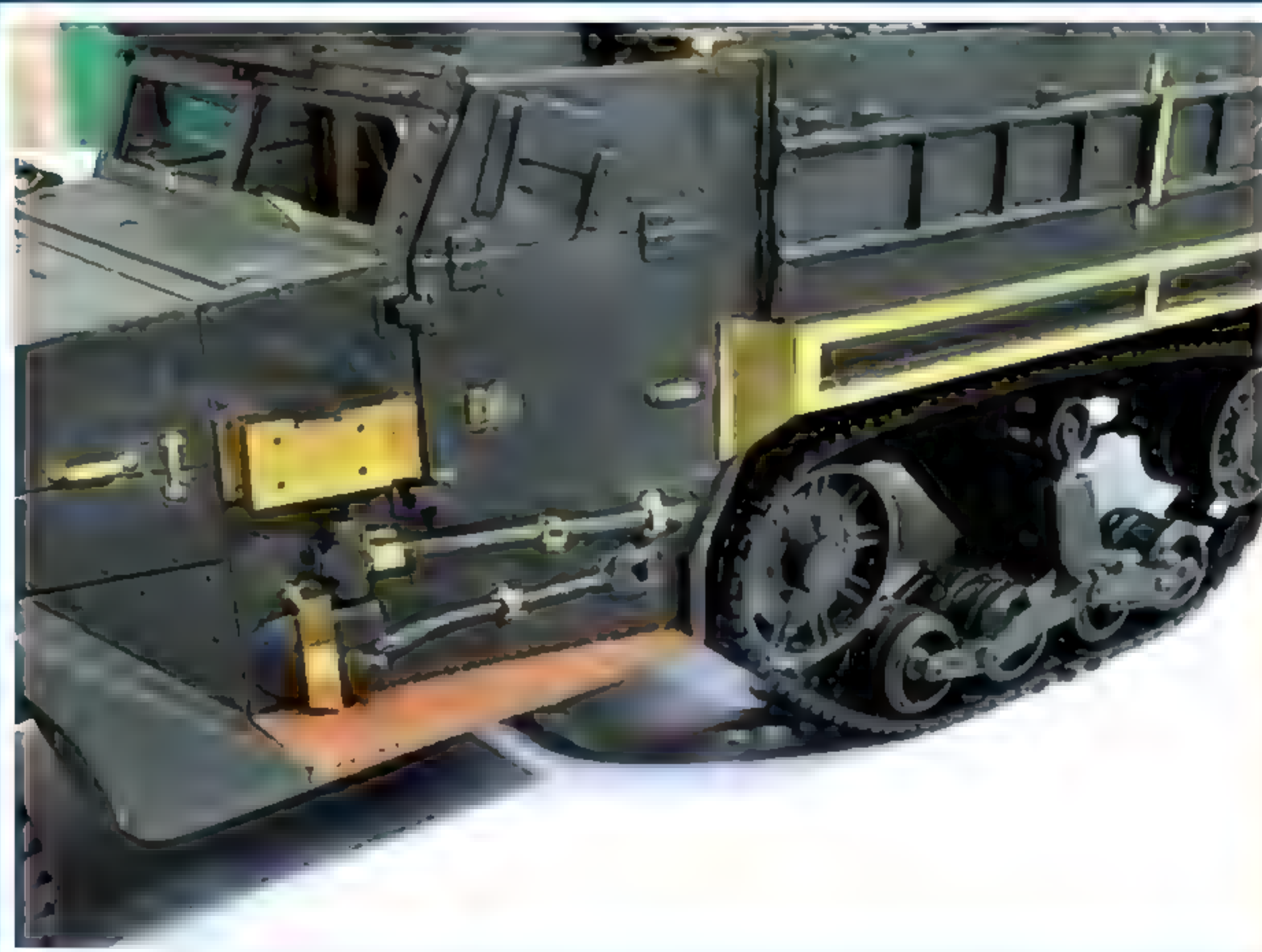
Albion Alloys are known worldwide for their vast ranges of precision metal rod, tubing, strip and more

EDUARDwww.eduard.com www.creativemodels.co.uk

Tamiya's re-released halftracks have attracted some superb, modern detail updates and Eduard have obliged too, with the release of a handy photo-etched set to dress-up the kit: here we see it in place on the M3A2 troop carrier

**DON'T MISS OUT ON FULL-BUILD FEATURES
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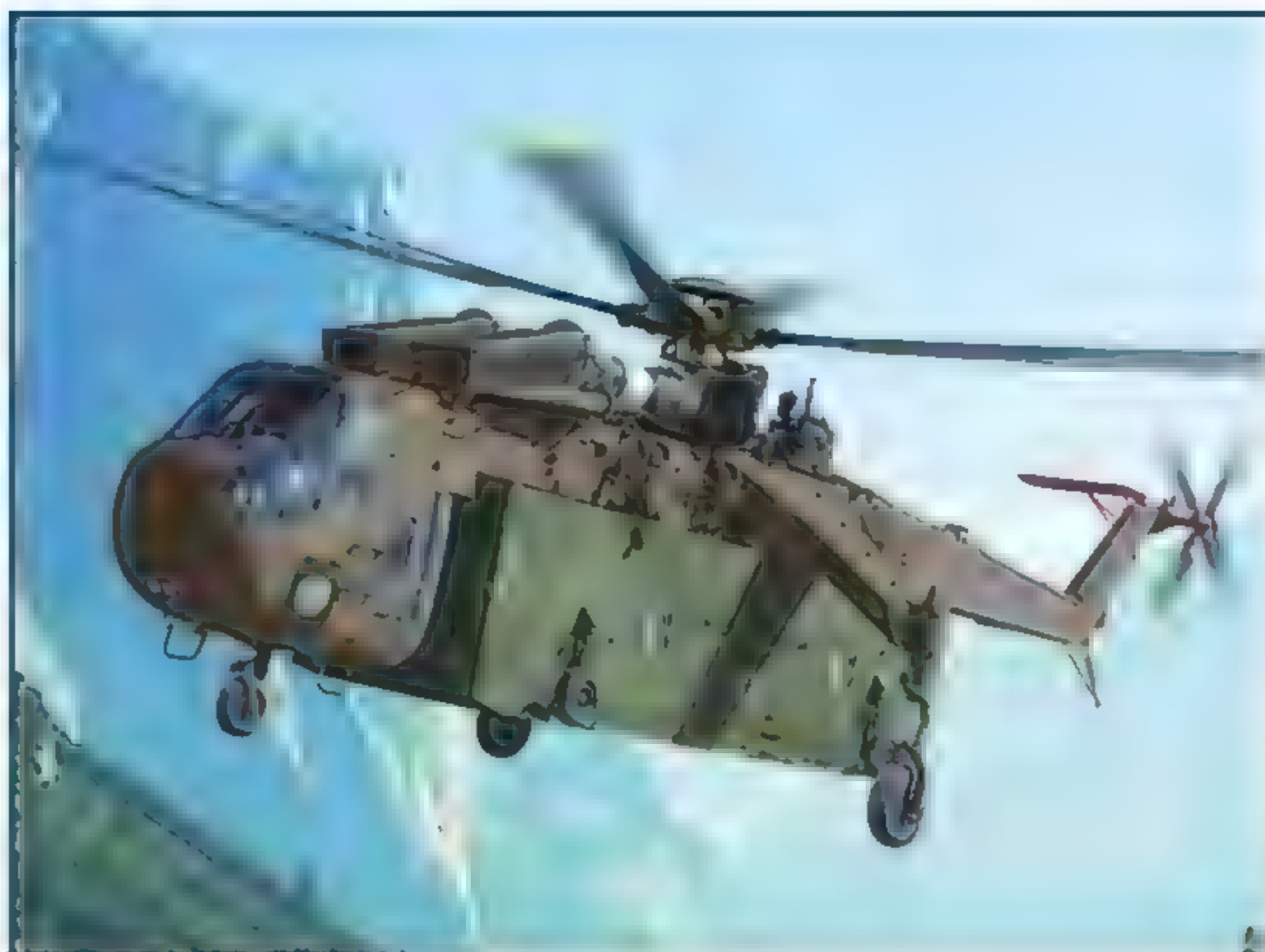
Subscribe to Military Illustrated Modeller
now at: www.doolittlemedia.com



ICM

www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk

It was wonderful to see the good folks at ICM back in Nuremberg this year, and as always, they have some fantastic new kits on the way...



ICM 1:35 Sikorsky CH-54A Tarhe w/pod



ICM 1:35 'Burma Jeep' WWII US military truck (new tool, coming soon)

ICM 1:35 "Always the first" Air Assault Troops of the Armed Forces of Ukraine



ITALERI www.hobbyco.net

Italeri 1:35 WW2 armoured vehicles are unique and beautifully done - lots were on show!

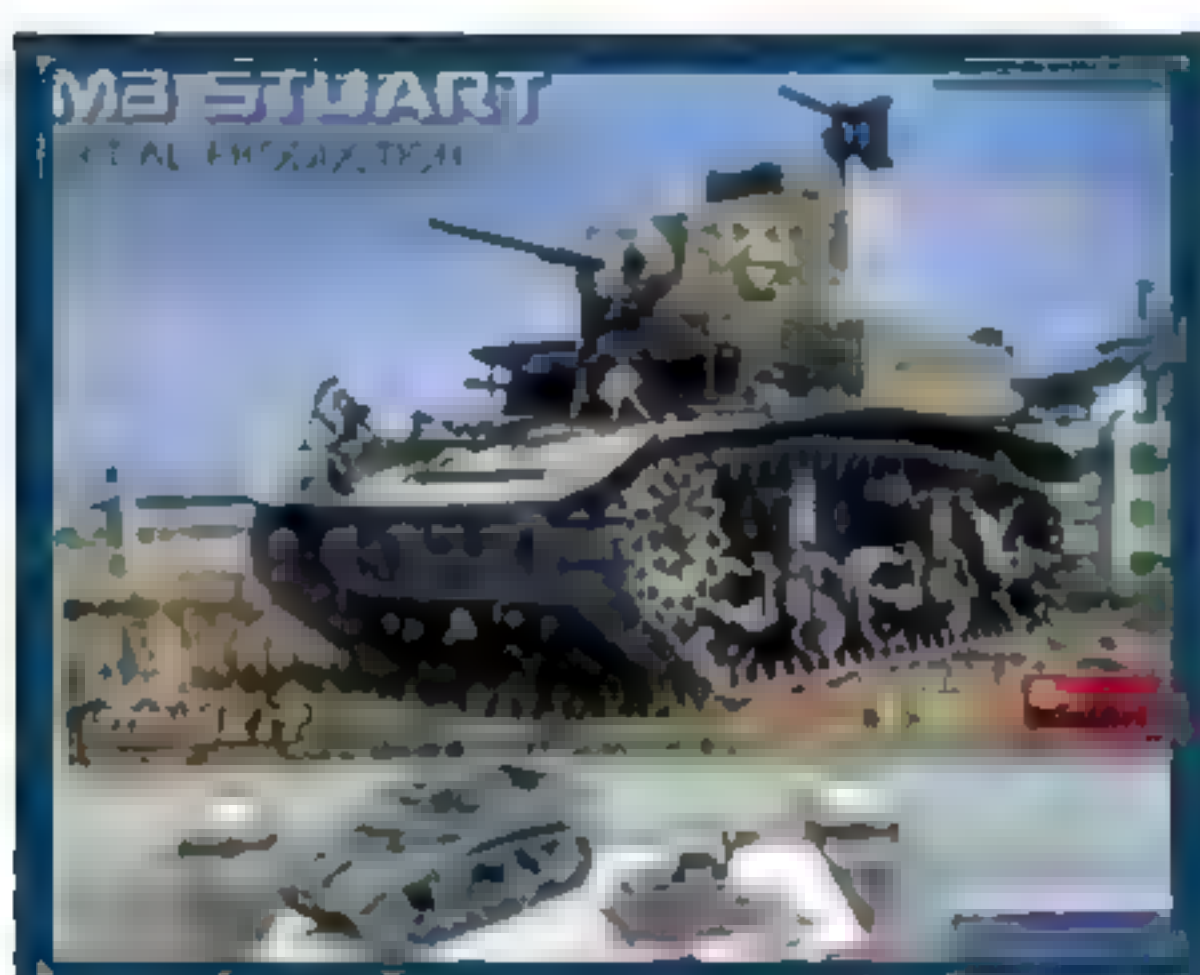
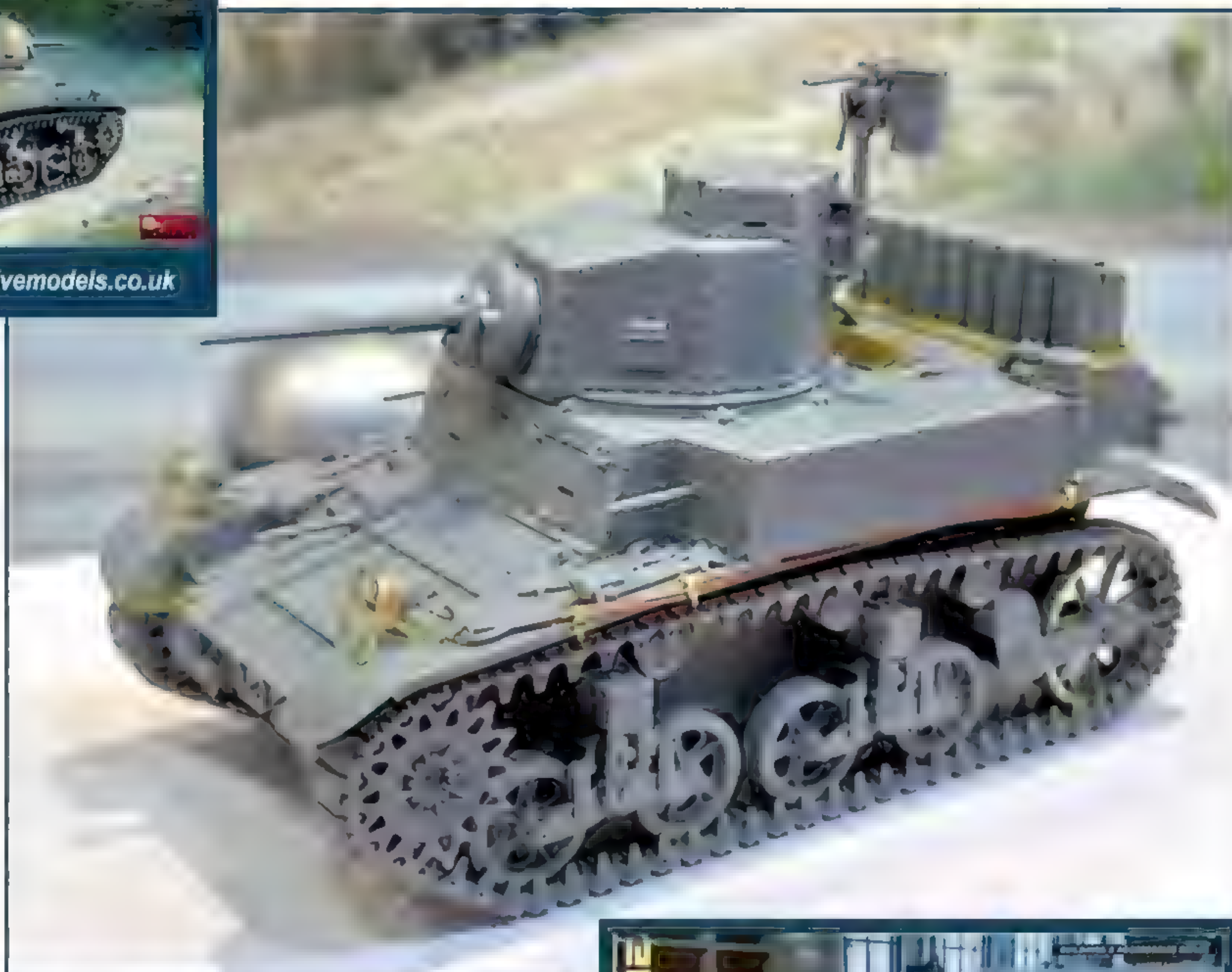




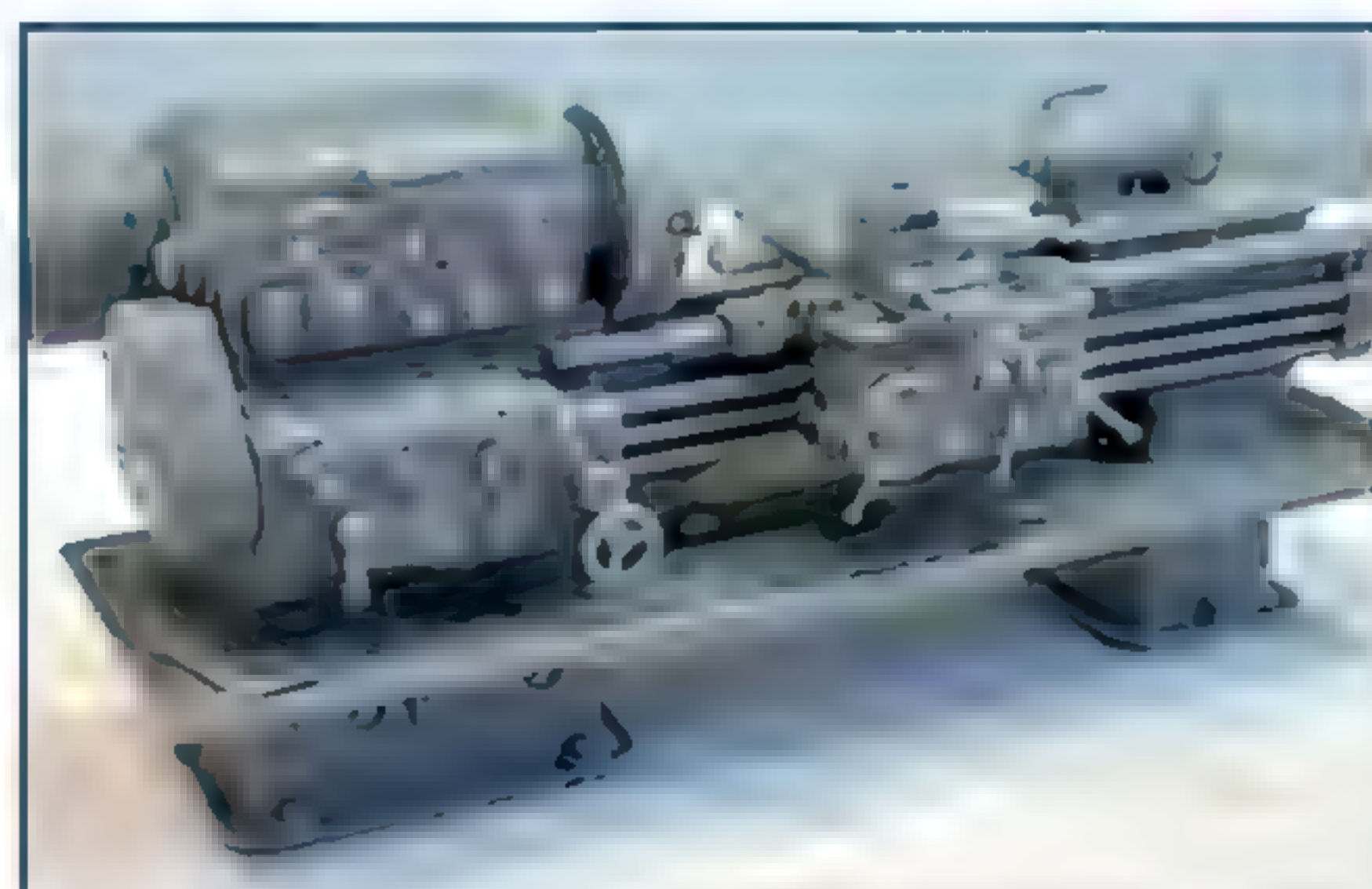
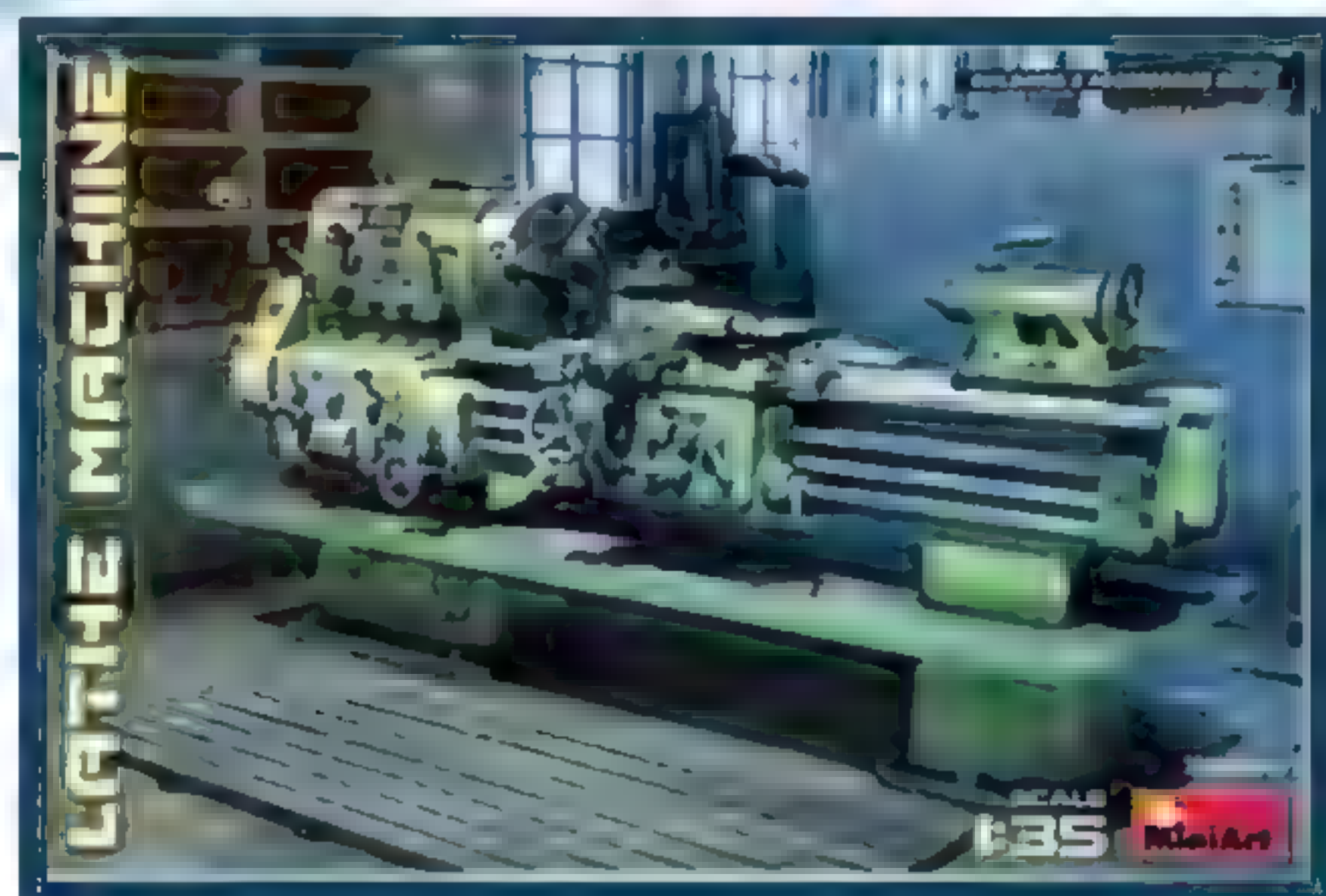
MINIART

www.miniart-models.com www.creativemodels.co.uk

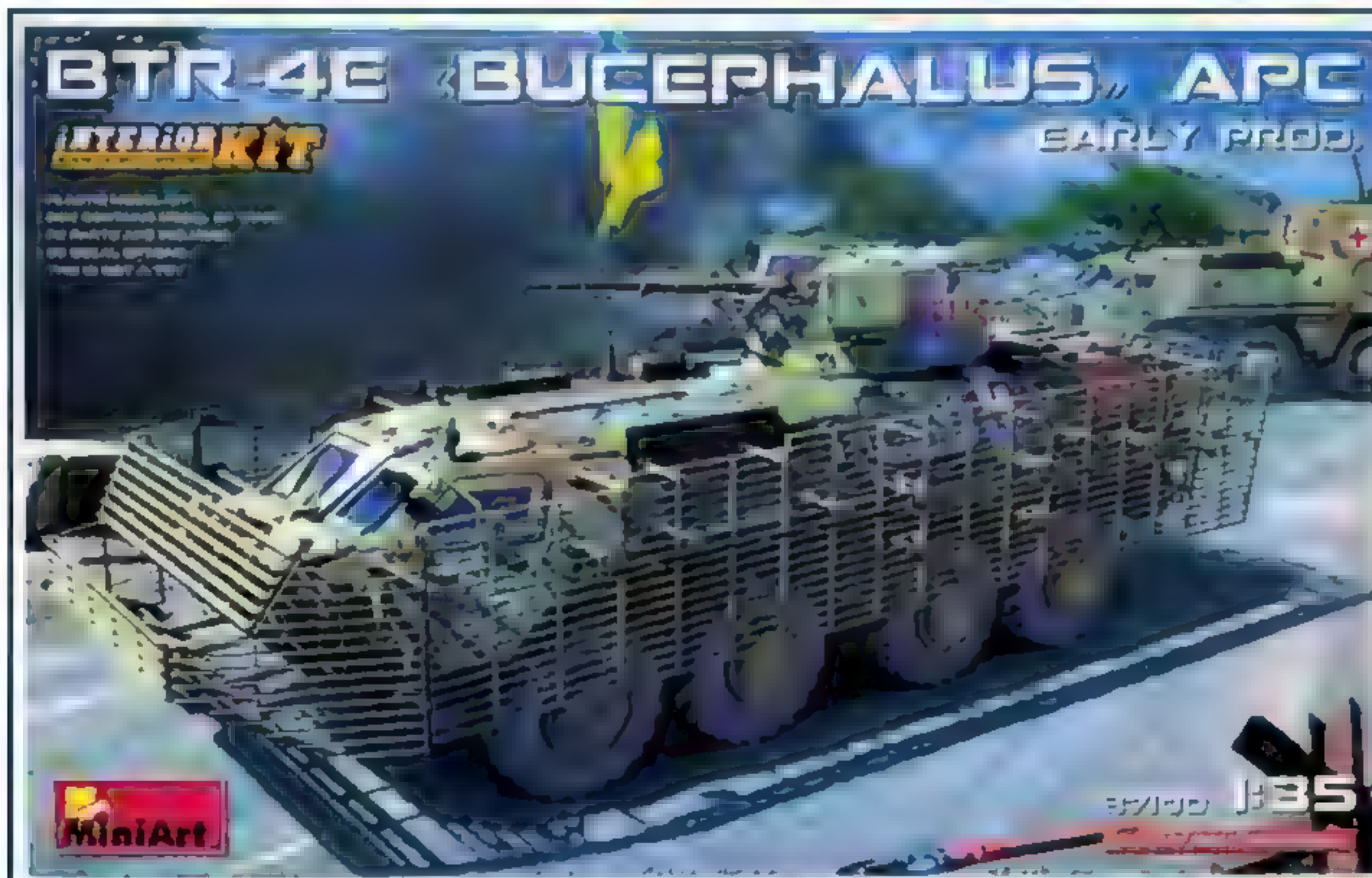
As with ICM, it was a joy to see MiniArt return to the Nuremberg Toy Fair and they had lots of superb new kits on show. The star for us was an all-new 1:35 M3 Stuart Light Tank with full interior detail - quite incredible. They have managed to cram a huge amount of detail into the Stuart's tiny hull, including its radial engine and engine bay equipment.



MiniArt's new 1:35 M3 Stuart Light Tank (Initial Production) is packed with parts inside and out, but for modellers who don't require the internal detailing, there will be a non-interior version too



Let's hope there will be more machine-shop hardware to follow this 1:35 lathe - it looks fantastic!



A brace of Ukrainian BTR-4E are coming in 1:35 from MiniArt - one with anti-RPG bar-armour and both with full interiors



Revell 1:72 Leopard 2A7V

Revell 1:35 Raketenjagdpanzer Jaguar 1



REAP THE WIRBELWIND

Jaffe Lam brings us a masterclass that shows the creation of a winter whitewash effect on Dragon's 1:35 Sd.Kfz.161/4 'Wirbelwind' anti-aircraft tank

From the beginning of 1943, the strategic initiative of the German army was lost to the Western and Eastern opponents. The Luftwaffe ceased to be an offensive tool in early strategic and even tactical respects. The defence of industrial facilities within Germany was regarded as more essential. In response to the growing threat from Allied aircraft and air superiority, a prototype of the self-propelled anti-aircraft gun based on the Panzer IV tank - Flakpanzer IV 'Wirbelwind' (Whirlwind in German) appeared in May 1944.

The original concept of the Wirbelwind is credited to Karl Wilhelm Krause of the 12th 'Hitler Jugend' Panzer Division, who suggested mounting a quadruple-barrelled 2cm Flakvierling 38 L/112.5 gun on a Panzer IV chassis. The Wirbelwind had an open-top nine-sided turret to house the 2cm quadruple gun, as well as the crew and spare ammunition.

The turret was welded from 16mm steel plates and provided protection against small-arms only. It was open to the top, which was the best solution with regard to the gun fumes. The turret had a base plate of 30mm thickness with a circular opening. The turret was simply mounted onto the existing Pz.Kpfw.IV turret ring. It was developed in 1944 as a successor to the earlier version Möbelwagen.

While the 22-tonne Wirbelwind was effective against low-flying aircraft and also infantry, its 20mm guns were less effective than the larger-calibre 37mm cannon used in the newer Ostwind. Some 105 Wirbelwinds were believed to be produced between May and September 1944 and they were eventually replaced by the Ostwinds equipped with a single 3.7cm FlaK 43 cannon. ➤





CONSTRUCTION

Dragon's Wirbelwind uses sprues from their kit No.6300 Panzer IV H 'Late' kit for the hull. For the top, they used sprues of the 20mm Flakvierling from the Sd.Kfz 7/1 kit without its shield. The kit also includes a specific sprue that contains the gun traverse mount, a new internal bulkhead, fuel tanks, and some other Wirbelwind specific details including spare barrel boxes.

By looking through the sprues I found no instances of flash, sink marks or any other moulding glitch. As usual for Dragon, there are parts not to be used, but not many for this kit. A bit of an upset is that though the box art depicts a Wirbelwind with Zimmerit and rubber-rimmed return rollers which were the usual setup seen in the reference photos, neither of which are included in the kit.

Though Dragon has later released a more correct Panzer IV G Wirbelwind Early Production with Zimmerit, as I intended to have an OOTB build, I just followed the instructions and proceeded without adding any Zimmerit.

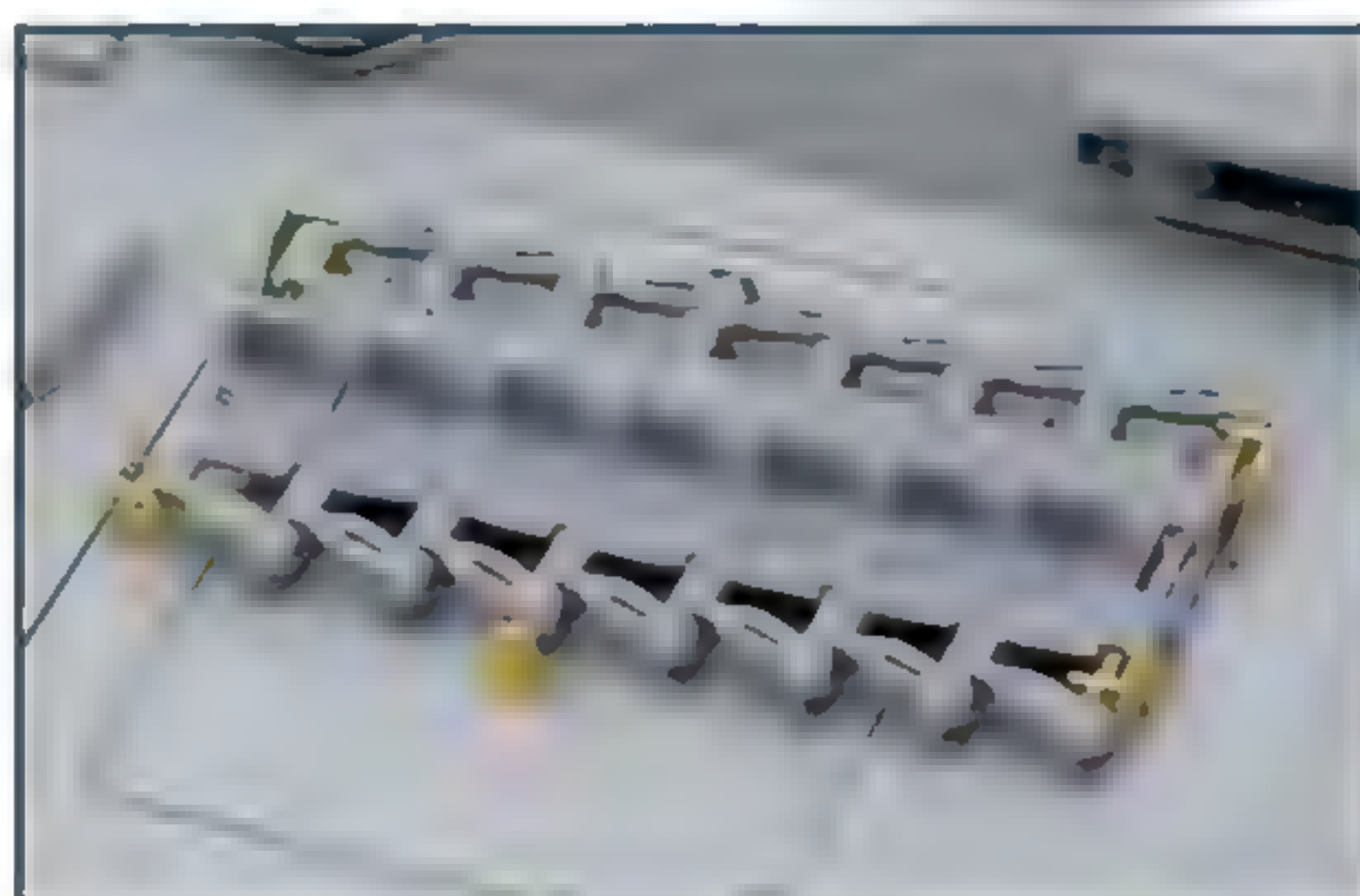
Started from the lower hull, the build was straightforward as with other Dragon Panzer IV kits and the idler was manufactured in old welded form. In fact, from October 1943 onwards a cast idler was used in limited numbers. However, this was not fully implemented and the old style idler continued to be used.

The tracks are the handed snap-together 'Magic Tracks', with one side being in light grey and the other in dark grey. Since they're non-workable, I used Tamiya Extra Thin Cement to glue them together. With double-sided tape and Tamiya masking tape temporarily holding the track length, I wrapped it around the wheels and return rollers to form a nice track profile with very natural sag once the tape was removed.

The cooling air inlets were located on both sides of the rear superstructure. The covering flaps were photo-etched pieces which I assembled them partially closed. All ports and hatches are separate parts so they can be posed open.

For the eye-catching turret, Dragon was able to slide mould it in just two pieces with integral weld seams, thus ensuring maximum ease of assembly. The joint was done right on a corner and fitted snugly and there is virtually no clean up required. As with Dragon's AA gun's provision, the quadruple gun barrels can turn freely. However, I opted to fix the guns elevated at 45 degrees by adjusting the position of the sight mounting bracket connected through a control lever.

The finished model kit was ready for painting. Dragon provide quite a lot PE parts for upgrade which was a nice touch for the outcome



The delicate PE parts for the spare track mounted at the glacis plate



I trimmed thin the clamps of the tool instead of replacing them with any PE or 3D print counterparts



I have bought a cheap barrel replacement. However, they didn't have any perforations on the flash suppressor. So I decided to keep the kit's ones with some thinning out the suppressors. Dragon has done a nice job in representing the ammunition magazine, sight, flak barrels and recoil mechanism



To add some visual interest, I put tarp made from epoxy putty partly laid on the turret. For an open-top vehicle, a tarp is essential for weather-proofing



The resin figures were from Evolution Miniatures. They were painted with AK Interactive 3rd Gen acrylic. The interaction was story telling



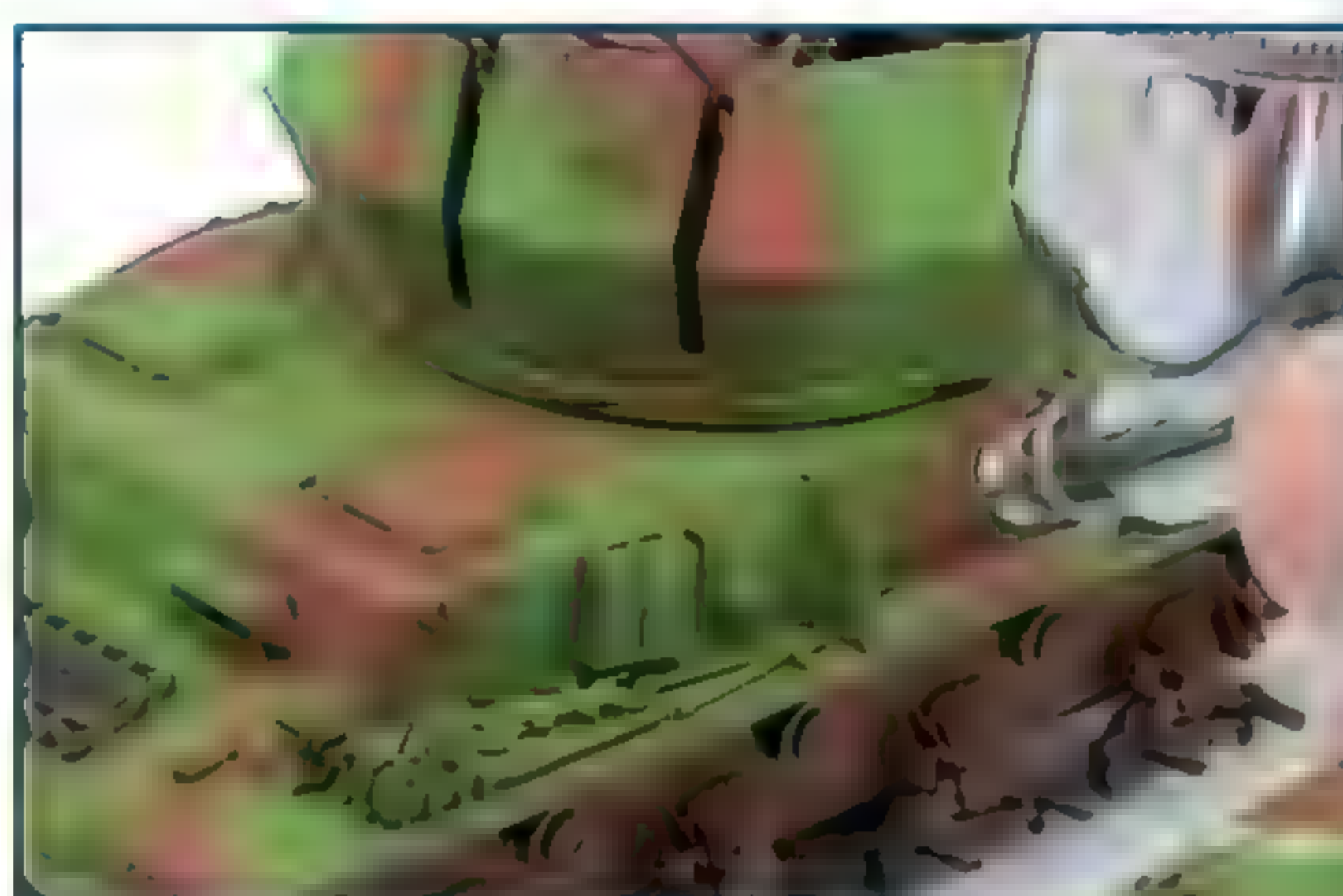
The whole tank was sprayed with a rich coat of black primer for a dark base to start with the weathering process. The red primer mixed from Tamiya Acrylics was then sprayed onto the black base. Since the base was very dark, the red primer should be mixed to a more vibrant colour so that it won't look too dull

The flap for the visor at the turret front have to be folded during ground employment, so that the visor of the Flak could also be used in ground combat. Though the 2cm Flakvierling 38 has new guns with slide moulded barrels and flash hiders, I replaced those four kit's barrels with brass substitutes. Sadly, the muzzle brakes of the brass Flak barrels have no perforations and lateral openings.

The ammunition rack on each side of the turret can store eight magazines. However, Dragon only provided four magazines per rack. To break regularity, instead of putting all the magazines in, I modified some of them as empties.

Apart from a nice turret interior, Dragon also provide a detailed base for the rotating turret separated from the engine compartment by a firewall. For the real vehicle, a base plate for the mounting of the rotating turret was welded on the two double-T-beams which were mounted inside the hull. On this base, the rotating ring of the under carriage of the Flak was clamped by a small steel sections, on which the upper carriage could turn.

The opening in the centre of the floor plate was needed for the mounting of the collector ring. The spare barrel boxes of the quadruple flak was another special feature for the Wirbelwind. Dragon has provided options for open and close position. As the box interior was so nicely moulded, I decided to open it up. ➔

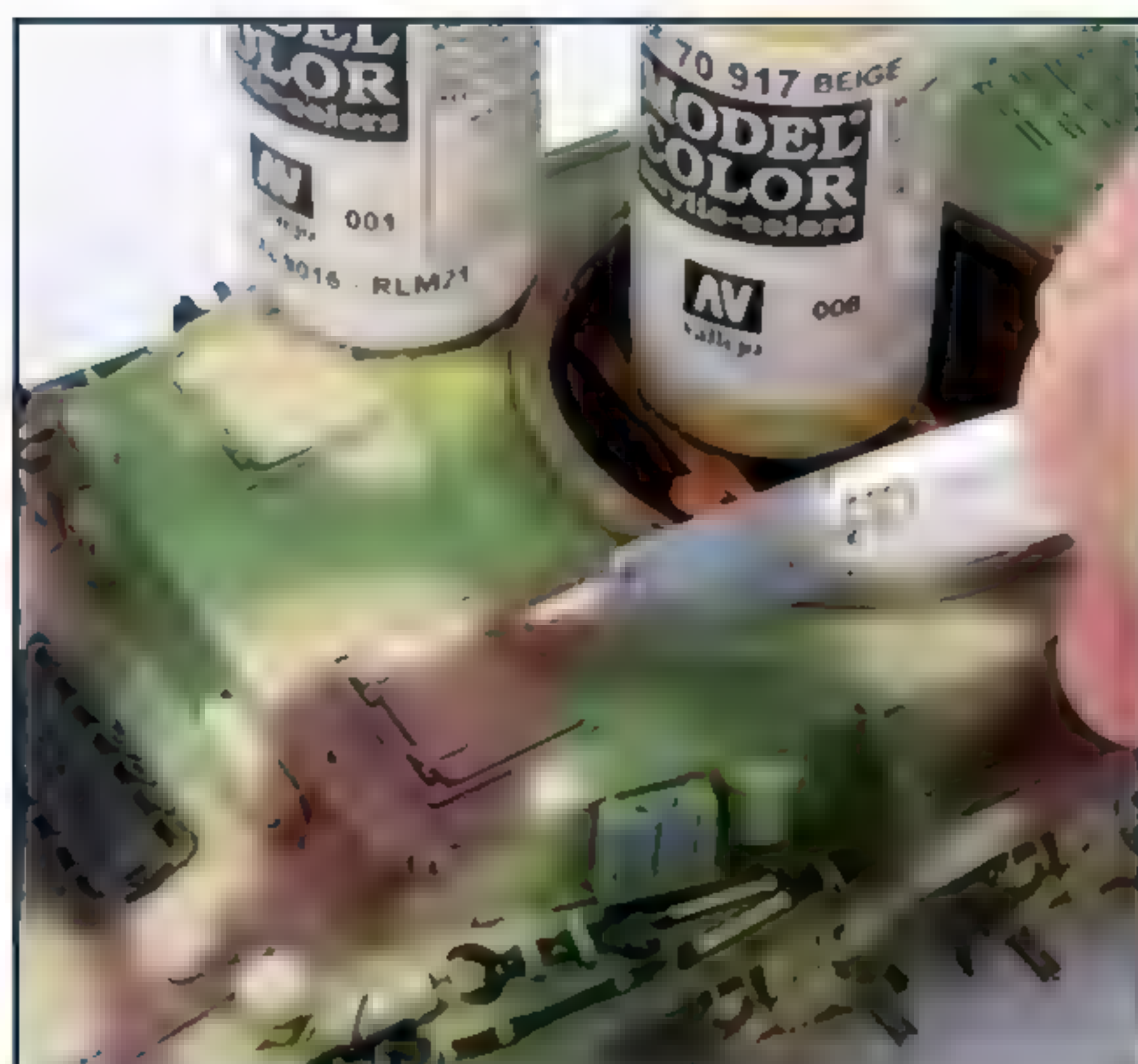


Next I prepared the green tone that was a mix of various Tamiya greens. I used an airbrush to outline the green patch and then sprayed it inside

The last colour was the dark yellow, which was also mixed from Tamiya colours including XF-57 Buff, XF-88 Dark Yellow 2 and XF-2 Flat White as far as I recalled

The entire camouflage scheme was complete





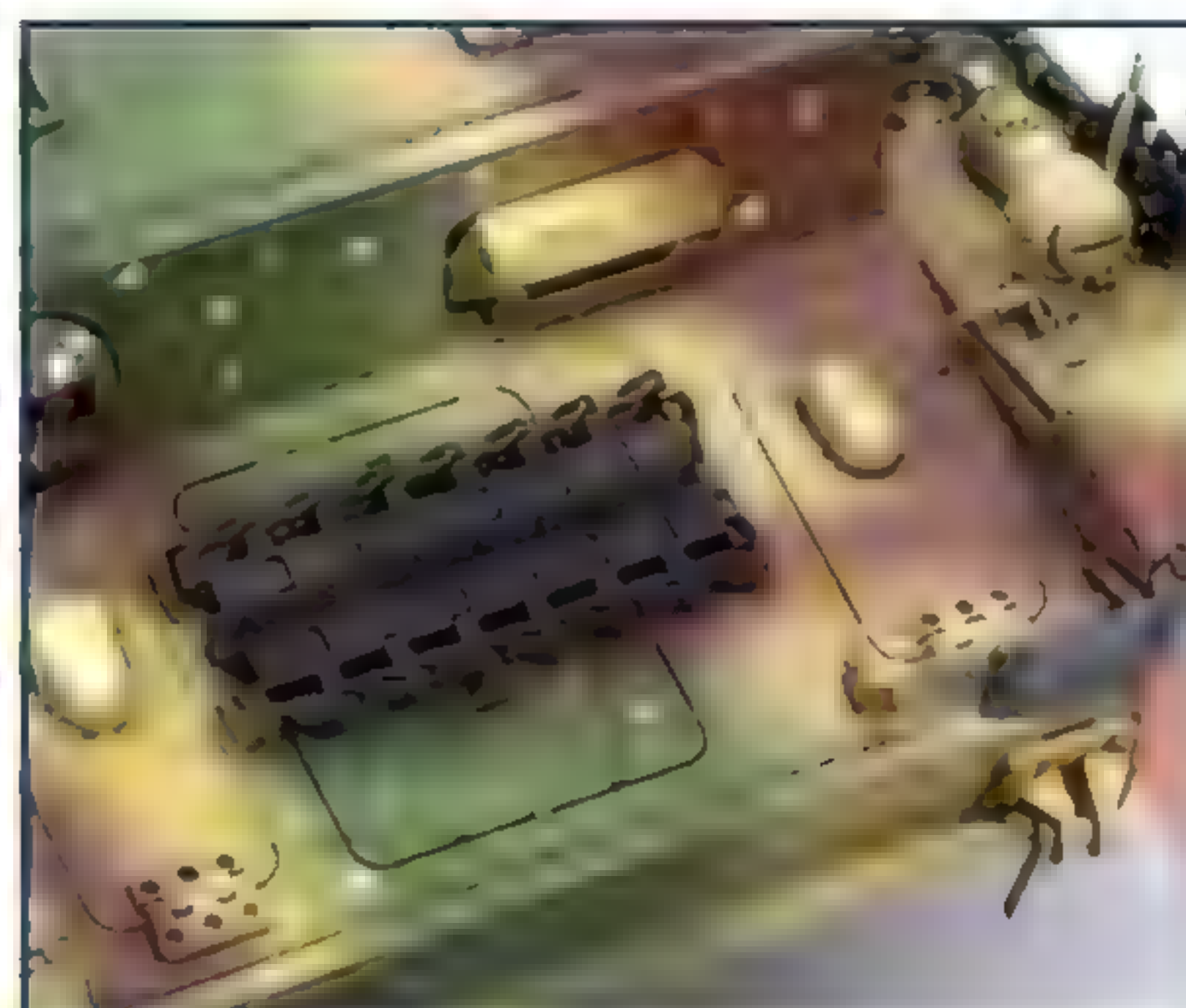
Before weathering began, I painted some highlights of the three camouflage tones and the on-vehicle tools using various acrylic paints. I intentionally made these highlights a bit stand out as the upcoming aging process will tone them down to some extent



Most of the painting was basically complete and the model was ready for weathering



The first layer of shadow was created with dark brown oil using pin-wash and oil rendering technique



I used the oil-dot technique to add more colours and fading effects. After soaking off the linseed oil on a piece of cardboard, dots of oil were painted on randomly and then pulled down using an old brush barely moistened with enamel thinner



Now it was time to apply the decals fixed with a strong decal solution. The reason for applying it only at this stage is to avoid darkening the decals due to drastic oil rendering. This helps keep the decals brighter and stand out more

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

I chose a winter white wash on the three-tone camouflage as the colour scheme which I reckon would be fun and give me a 2-in-1 painting experience on one model! The model tank was sprayed with a primer of black for a dark base to start with. For the base paint, I pretty much spray exclusively with Tamiya Acrylics which are easily thinned and spray great. The first camo colour, red primer, was my own mix, made up from Tamiya Acrylics which I recall were XF-9 Hull Red, XF-7 Red and XF-2 Flat White. It was thinned with lacquer thinner and sprayed on to the black base.

Next I prepared the green tone, also mixed from various Tamiya greens. Since the red primer underneath affected the 'freshness' of the green, I used a brighter mix so that the green patches wouldn't be too dull. The last colour, dark yellow patches, was a mixture of Tamiya colours including XF-57 Buff, XF-88 Dark Yellow 2 and XF-2 Flat White. I then painted some highlights for the whole vehicle and the on-vehicle tools with various acrylic paints. I deliberately made these highlights a little more prominent as the upcoming weathering process will tone them down.

I used a dark brown oil rendering and a pin-wash to create some shading and depth. I then applied more colour and fading effects using the oil-dot technique.

Now it was time to apply the decals and fixed with a strong decal solution. The reason for only applying decals at this stage is to avoid darkening the decals too much through vigorous oil application. This helps make the decal brighter and stand out more. After going through the oil rendering process, the tank gained more depth, along with some subtle tonal richness and faded look. Honestly, these steps can be skipped and just applied after the white wash camo since it actually covered most of the weathering effects.

WHITE-WASH TIME!

Though the three-colour camo scheme was quite appealing, I decided to switch the tank to a white-washed machine. One of the reasons was that I decided to add two crew members in winter uniforms and a white vehicle will come along better with the tank. The figures are always a strong visual magnet to the whole setting. Not only do they help show off the size of the tank, but they create some

story even without a base. The hairspray method, my favourite technique, comes into play. First, I misted a couple of thin coats of hairspray over the whole tank and let it dry for about fifteen minutes.

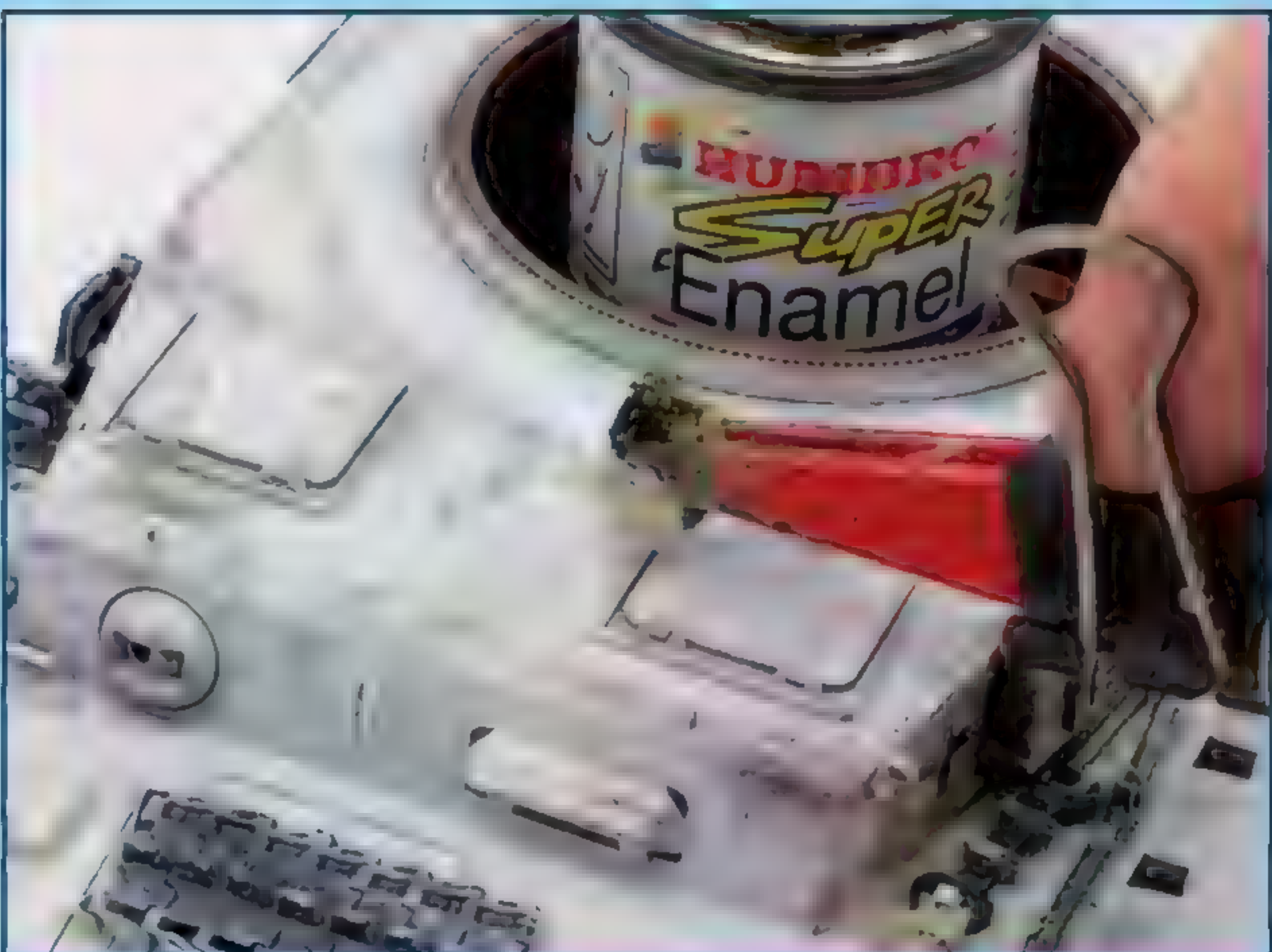
Then I then randomly sprayed Tamiya XF-2 Flat White on the vehicle. When this white coat was touch dry, I used a moistened old brush to gently buff away the white covering. Bear in mind, if the hairspray underneath dissolves well in water, the white covering will come off easily without the need to scrub with a stiff brush. Now I attained a rough 'white' map for further application of the white layer, which only represents the least white areas.

Humbrol white enamel paint was dabbed on randomly to add more layers to the white camo. This was to mimic the real situation, where the white areas wear less. Abteilung 502 Sepia oil paint colour-wash was used as pin-wash to all crevices and shadow areas to create more depth of the vehicle.

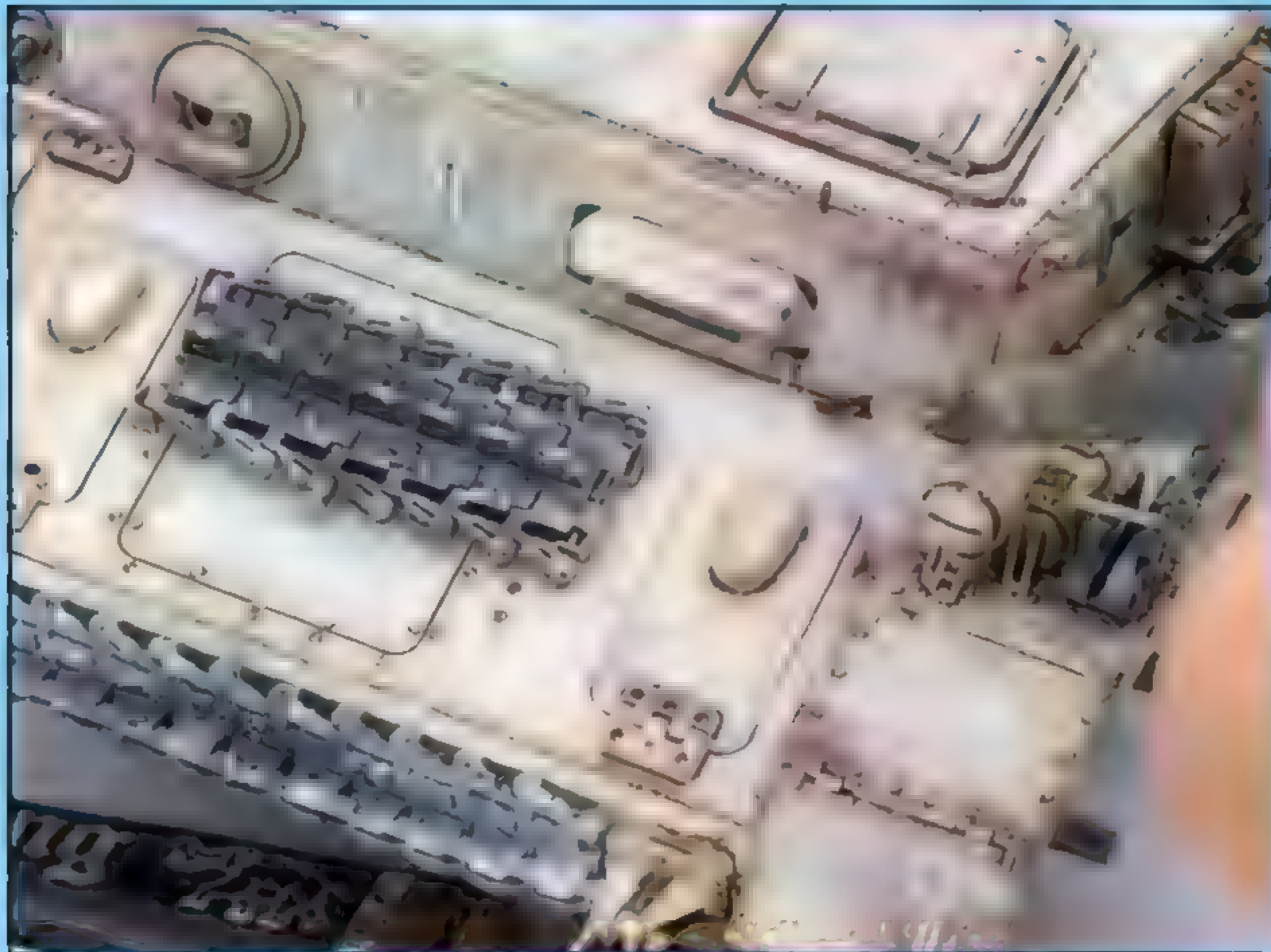
Next, I applied AK Interactive Dark Earth Terrain to areas where dirt usually accumulates. This helps define the profile and details of the tank, while the dark mud and white wash colour create a nice contrast ➔



Two liberal coats of hairspray were applied to the whole tank and then I randomly sprayed Tamiya Flat White XF-2 on the vehicle. Once this coating was touch dry, the white covering was lifted off with an old brush gently rubbed onto the model surface



Humbrol white enamel paint was dabbed on randomly to add layers to the white camo. This was to mimic areas of white wash which got less worn out



Abteilung 502 Sepia oil paint wash was used as pin-wash and create more depth of the vehicle. Oil was applied to all crevices and shadow areas so as to accentuate all details of the model and add more volume



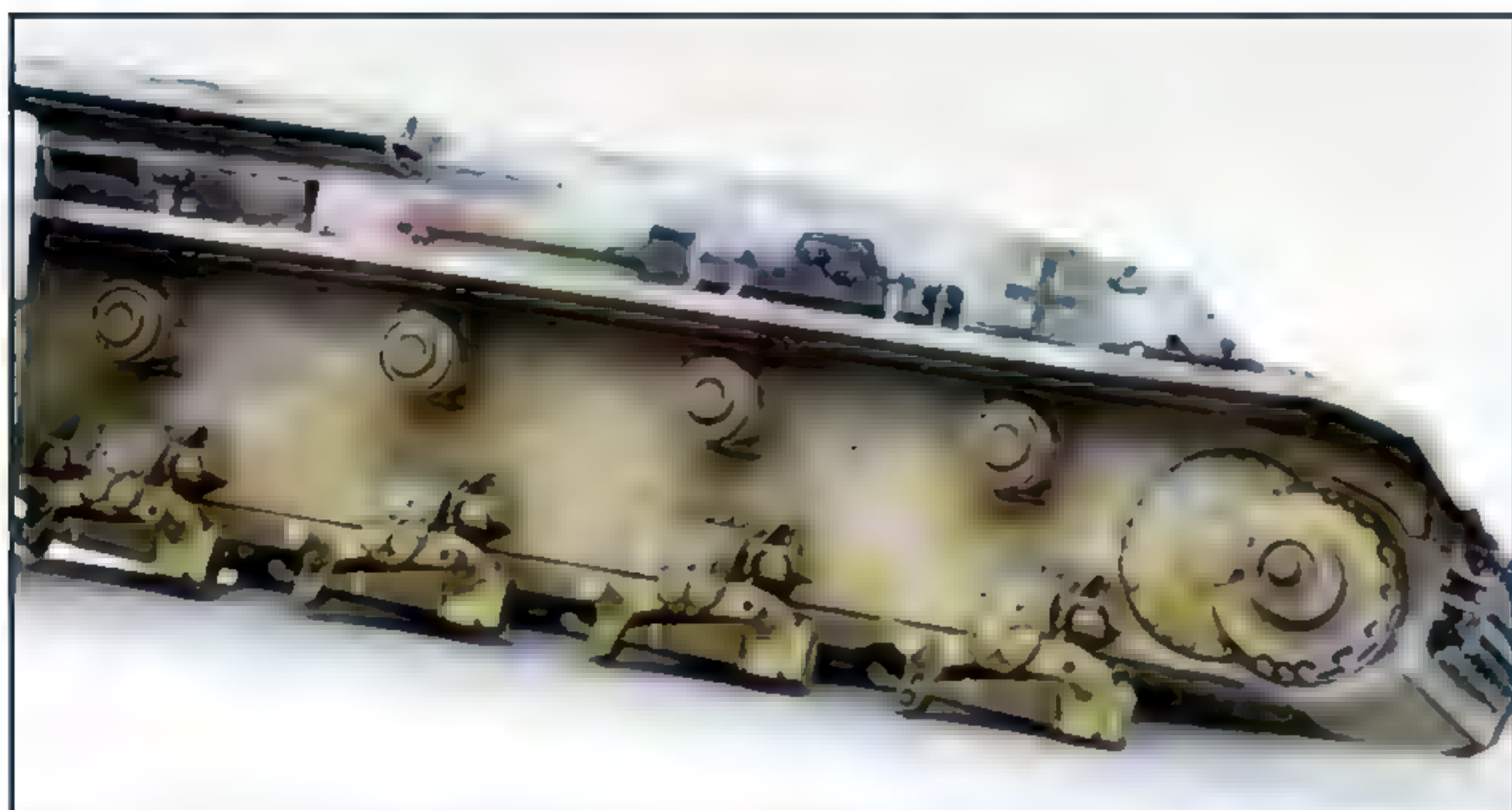
Next I applied AK Dark Earth Terrain to areas where mud usually collects. This also helps define the profile and details of the tank



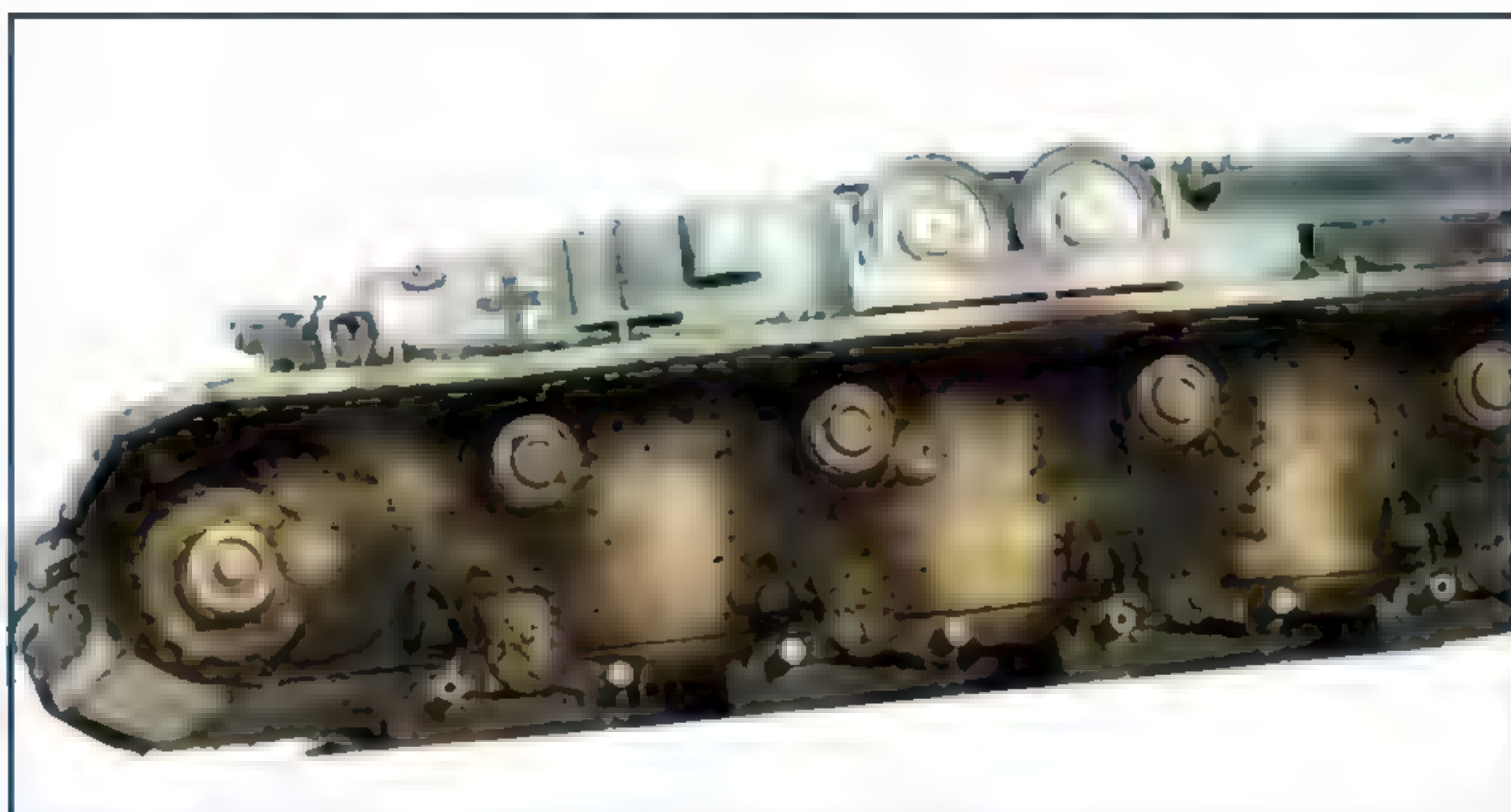
By using a brush slightly dampened with water, the acrylic mud was easily feathered to alter its concentration and create some depth of the mud



The muffler was painted also using hairspray technique. To make it stand out more, mud application was avoid so as not to cover its rusty colours



Before actually adding mud to the lower hull and suspension, I sprayed some Tamiya Flat White XF-2 to add depth to these areas



AK Interactive Dark Earth Terrain acrylic mud was applied and thinned down with water to alter its concentration and create some depth of the mud



Brown pigment was added for the texture of mud and oil paint was added to create a paste like mud substance

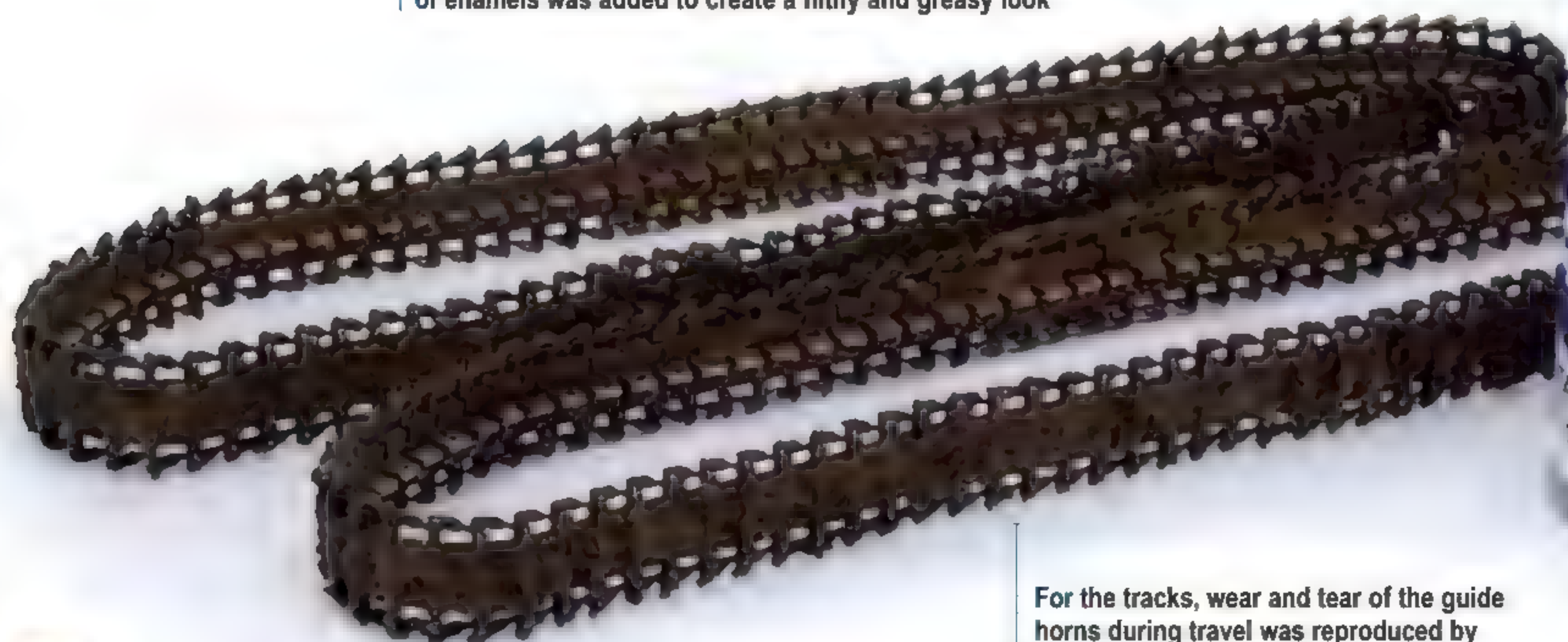


The wheels and sprockets were also treated similarly to the lower hull. After applying acrylic mud and pigments, a variety of enamels was added to create a filthy and greasy look

for the whole vehicle. I then randomly added some white colour to the hull, while the turret received less colour, suggesting well worn resulted from heavy usage. For the turret, I chose to depict most of it without the white covering and show more of the original camouflage colours. Instead, I applied white wash streaking to add some visual interest. Adding white can also act as a highlight for the prominent areas.

Moving onto the lower hull and suspension, I started playing with some mud. Before actually applying the mud base, I sprayed on some Tamiya white acrylic to add depth to these areas. Similar to the upper hull, I again applied AK Dark Earth Terrain over some areas, concentrating on the "non-white" areas to create some nice contrast. This acrylic mud was feathered with water to alter its concentration and create a depth of mud. Pigment, oil paint and engine oil were added to create some satin areas and to mimic the filthy and greasy look.

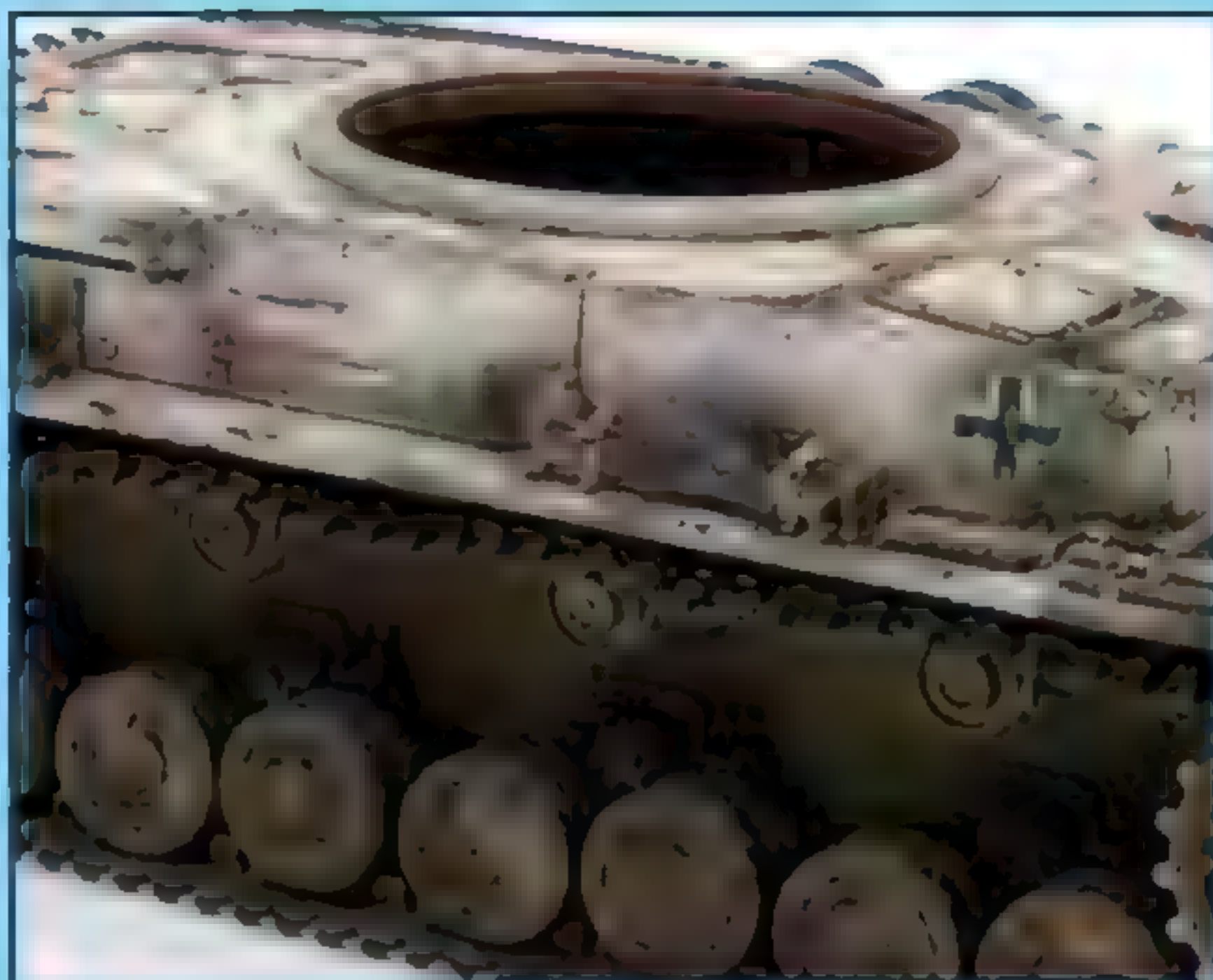
The wheels and sprockets were treated in similar way to the lower hull. Make sure that the weathering of the upper hull should tie in with that of the lower hull. Finally, small but crucial details such as chipped paints, rust and fuel stains and exposed weld beads were added to complete the whole weathering process. ➔



For the tracks, wear and tear of the guide horns during travel was reproduced by drybrushing acrylic steel colour



I used Tamiya typical cable, white nylon thread, for the tow cable at the rear. Though it's not a metallic cable, this nylon cable is very flexible and allows us to easily make natural sags that indicate the weight of the cable itself



The wheels and tracks were in place. Make sure that the weathering of the upper hull should tie in with the lower hull



I applied more white layers using Vallejo acrylic to cover some of the white areas. This is to replicate areas where most of the white wash was retained and intact



The addition of white colour can also be used as a highlight for the prominent areas



Wet and fuel stains were applied on the engine deck and around fuel cap. This also help define profile around the turret



For the turret which I intended to show more original camo colours, more white paint was rubbed off. White paint streaking was added for some visual interest



Exposed weld beads were partly painted silver using a steel colour



Chippings were imitated by sponge, slightly dabbed in dark brown acrylic paint on the protruding corners and edges

◀ CONCLUSION

I've been planning to build this Wirbelwind tank for a while. Not only was I fascinated by the unique look of its turret, but I also had the opportunity to try out a 2-in-1 paint scheme, a three-colour and white wash scheme. As usual, Dragon's kit comes with excellent moulding quality and details. For the turret, the manufacturer has done a nice job to hide the joints at the vertical weld joints between the front five panels and the extended rear three panels. And the upper sections are with Dragon's "Razor Edge" thin mouldings which make the whole turret structure an appealing feature.

As mentioned above, Dragon didn't include any moulded-on Zimmerit and rubber-rimmed return rollers which were commonly seen in reference photos. However, I still built it straight from the box, including using the kit's flak barrels and magic tracks, the end result is a superb replica.

That concludes the Wirbelwind, so with all that being said, I still have to say that for what comes in the box, this is a great kit and I really enjoyed the project from start to finish. •

Rust enamels were used to paint on the chipped areas and were pulled down for some streaks



MODELSPEC

DRAGON 1:35 SD.KFZ 161/4 2CM FLAKPANZER
IV WIRBELWIND KIT NO.6540

Materials:

- Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints used:

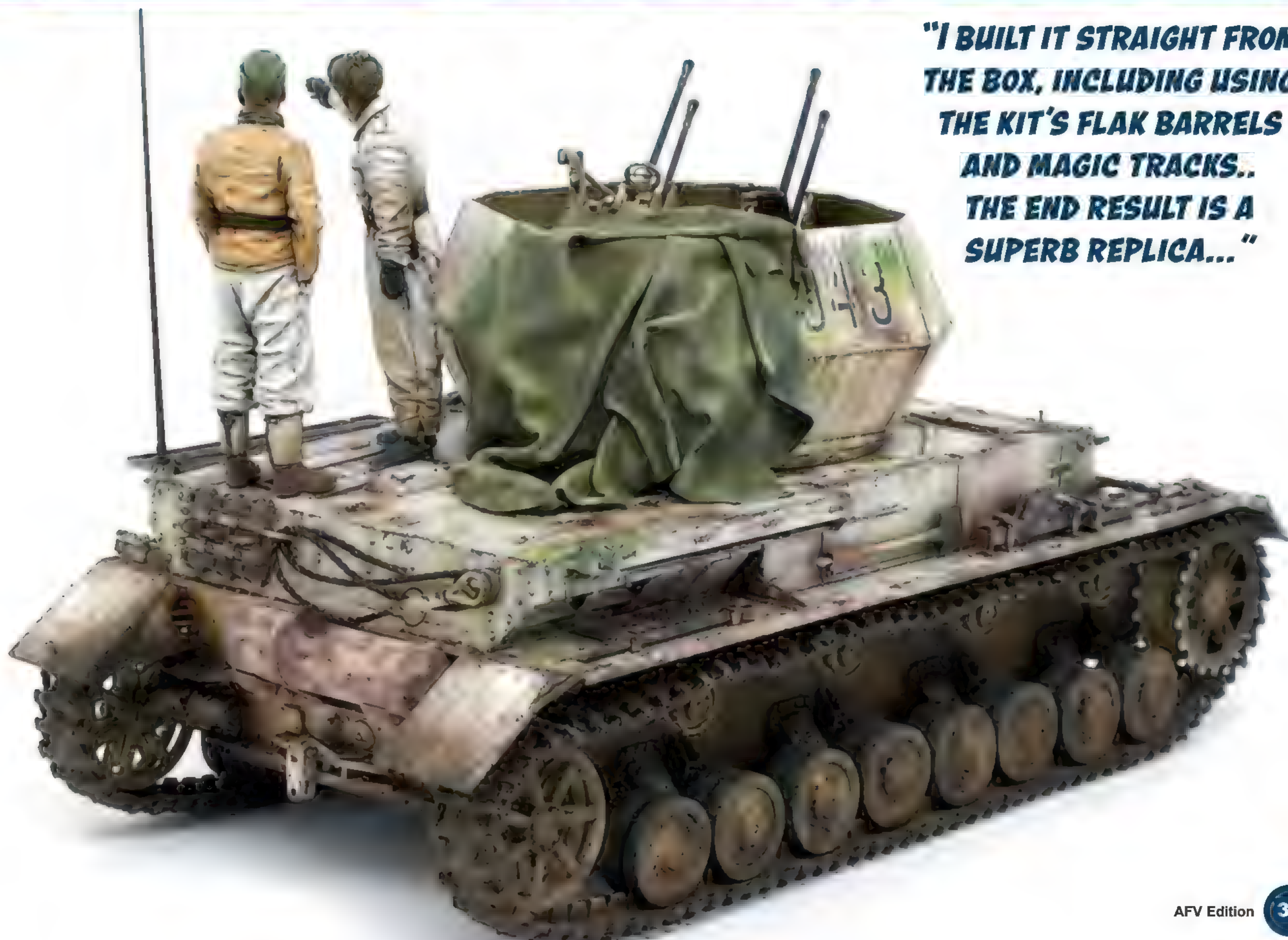
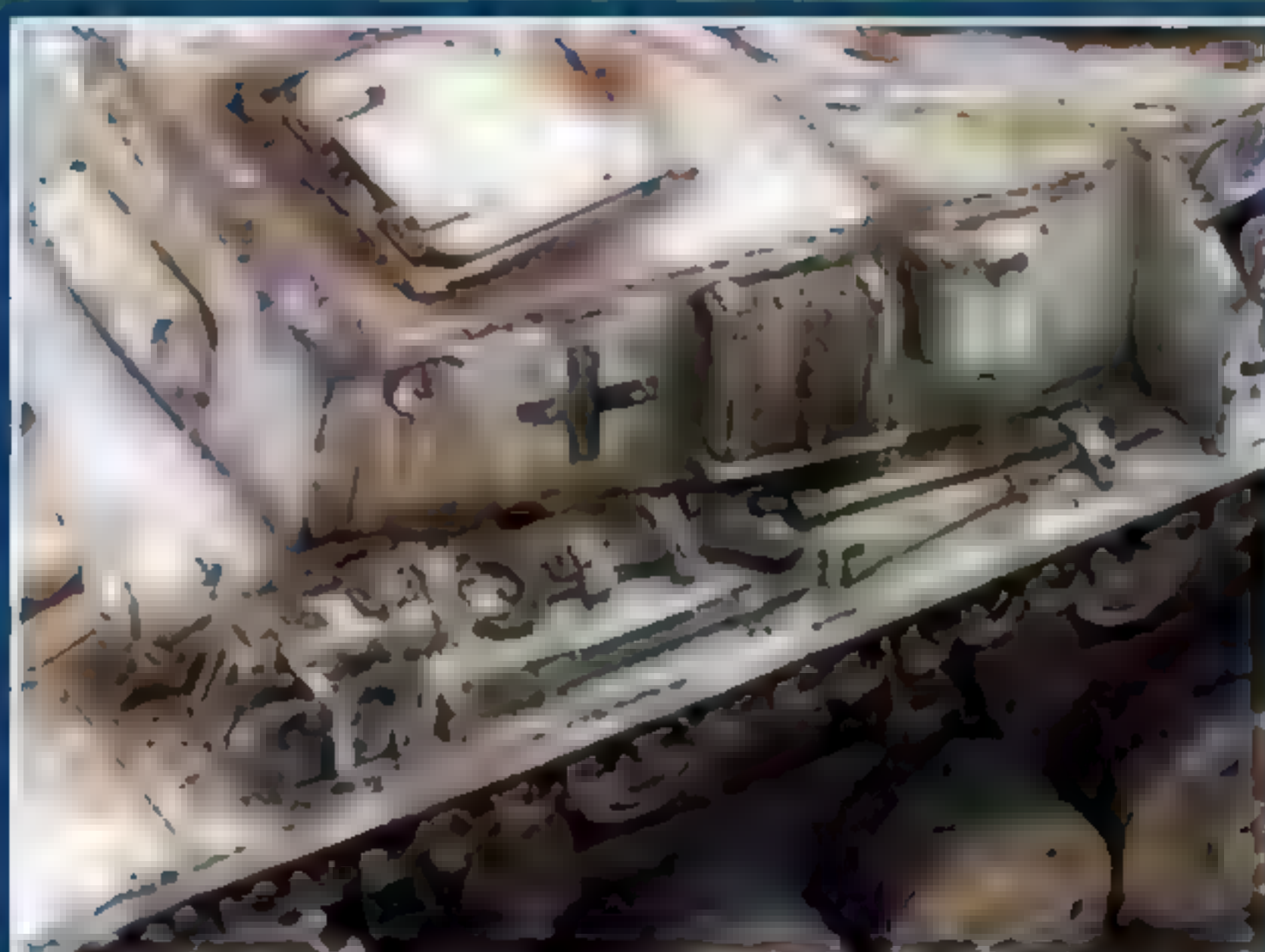
- Tamiya Acrylics: XF-9 Hull Red, XF-7 Red, XF-2
Flat White, XF-57 Buff, XF-88 Dark Yellow 2
- Abteilung 502: Sepia oil paint
- AK Interactive: Dark Earth Terrain

Accessories used:

- Evolution Miniatures: figures

Availability:

Dragon models and accessories are widely available
from good model shops and online. UK import and
distribution by The Hobby Company Limited;
www.hobbyco.net



**"I BUILT IT STRAIGHT FROM
THE BOX, INCLUDING USING
THE KIT'S FLAK BARRELS
AND MAGIC TRACKS..
THE END RESULT IS A
SUPERB REPLICA..."**



THE BLACK SANDS OF IWO JIMA, 1945

Wrecked by Japanese mortar and shellfire, US Marines LVTs of various versions, a pair of self-propelled cranes, a bulldozer, trucks, Jeeps and other hardware sit trapped by Iwo Jima's treacherous black-ash sands. From the presence of crew and track marks in the sand, the trio of Amtracs in the foreground appear to be still serviceable. Not an easy diorama to pull off, but a potential showstopper if executed accurately.

Photo: PhoM3c, Robert M. Warren, USN, US archives/public domain



UKRAINIAN MUD MONSTER

The BMR-2 mine-clearing vehicle is a relic of the Soviet Union's years-long misadventure in Afghanistan. **Zack Sex** started creating his version about ten years ago and he recounts this particular shelf-queen's completion

As a teenager, my pal Paul Kunkels and I would keep scrap albums of photos from Sunday's newspapers and Time and Newsweek magazines. Our interest was armour and other equipment, particularly in third-world conflicts such as Angola, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq. The other area of focus was the Soviets in Afghanistan, whether blurry black and white photos or clear colour ones, we catalogued what we could. But in a time before mobile phones and the ubiquitous selfies, images were indeed a rarity. That said it was simple enough to get shots of T-62s, BMP-1s and the likes of BM-24 Grads, but that wasn't what got us going we liked the Cinderellas of the Soviet occupation forces.

These rarities included BTS-4 recovery vehicles and a range of mine-clearing or road patrol vehicles. A number of these mine crushers were made from modified self-

propelled guns such as the SU-122/54 (these have been covered in past articles in MIM and feature two types released by Ukrainian company MiniArt). Others were modified BTS-4A recovery vehicles minus their rear spade and snorkel tube and given an armoured commander's cupola, but that's for a future article.. The vehicle of major interest to Herr Kunkels and I, however, was the BMR-2, this vehicle was a specially commissioned conversion of early T-54 and T-55 hulls to produce a mine-clearing vehicle specially designed to transport and assemble the components of the KMT-5, 7 and 9 mine rollers.

The roller wheels were kept in the rear cargo bay with items such as T-55 suspension bars. To the left of the commander's position was a small crane for lifting said items in and out of the rear cargo bay. The commander's cupola featured a machine cupola from the T-64 tank and may be instantly familiar to builders

of modern Ukrainian or Soviet armour. The actual main structure of the upper hull on the BMR-2 featured a sloped casemate effectively mounted on top of a T-54 or T-55 lower hull, with a recessed and protected driver's station.

The driver's area is designed to minimize the danger of exploding mines to the front of the vehicle as well as providing side and roof-protection from sniper fire. With the withdrawal from Afghanistan and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, most of the BMR series mine-clearing tanks were retired or scrapped with at least one BMR-1 ending up being used in the bid to save the Chernobyl nuclear plant.



SCRAP BOX, JUNK BUILD...

At some point at least ten years ago during some spare time, I decided to try and construct the basic BMR-2 hull. This was started using, wait for it, an early Trumpeter T-55 hull, yes the ones with the dreadful wheels and rubber-band tracks. The hull was cut lengthways to widen it to the correct width, while the rear section was cut away as detail and size it was also incorrect. Having constructed the upper casemate along with the rear stowage bay, inevitably enough I got distracted by a catalogue of other modelling projects and the BMR-2 idea looked like it was going to the very back of the queue (along with a pair of Skif side skirts, from that company's even more dreadful T-55 offering). Now the reason I work with this kind of stuff on certain projects used to be based on the idea of not wasting a perfectly good Tamiya or nowadays MiniArt T-55 on a project that might never see the light of day.

The BMR-2 was just such a case, as I was clearing out my workshop recently which had become inundated with all manner of stuff that I needed to purge. The BMR-2 was going in the bin until I decided to see if I could finish it over a few days. The first step was attaching T-55 running gear, which consisted of a mix of distressed resin road wheels I made along with several Tamiya examples. The sprockets were modified T-55 items with T-72 outer cogs that I made for Mig Productions some time back. ➤



Top shot of the mish-mash of parts that make up this particular model. This really is the essence of this type of project. Spare Miniart KMT-9 rollers and a foul weather hood from their T-54 series stand out here, along with 3D-printed light-guards sent to me by my US pal Matt Reeves, not to mention the Tamiya T-55 parts in the form of the driver's hatch and side zip boxes



MINIART KMT-9

This general construction complete, I set about detailing the BMR with a scratchbuilt crane, fuel drums plumbed with guitar string (the acoustic type with outer cabling) along with a Trumpeter T-64 commander's machine gun cupola. At this point, it is worth mentioning the other vital aspect of completing the BMR project, which took the form of the individual KMT-7 and KMT-9 mine roller kits from Ukrainian manufacturer MiniArt. The fact that MiniArt released these kits wasn't something I ever expected, never mind their series of BMR-1 mine-clearing vehicles. With a MiniArt KMT-9 complete with attachment points in hand, I now had the added impetus to crack on with the build and construction got to a point where I could see an end in sight, with various minor but key details. It is also worth noting I added parts of a second MiniArt KMT-9 mine roller system (or one of the four front roller legs) to the rear cargo bay of the vehicle, along with four spare roller wheels to the mid-left side of the vehicle.

In other areas I added a selection of tracks, tools, a torsion bar and segments of wooden blocks wrapped in wire, made from the wooden handles of fireworks found in my area after that fun-filled night. The roof of the casemate features a central entrance and exit cupola used by the combat engineering crew on board, which was created by sanding down a Dragon T-80 road wheel which was 'Dremelled' to create the protruding cupola plus a pair of simple hatches with hinges made from scrap plastic.

This was left slightly ajar to add some realism to this section. The vehicle crane had wire wrapped around it in sections, based on reference shots from Donbas in 2015. This brings me nicely to the inspiration



A front three quarter view of the BMR-2 showing to good effect the mix of resin and plastic T-55 wheels, Skif side skirt distressed with a Dremel (I know it's desperate) and suitably used, side-mounted crane

Rear shot of the BMR-2 showing the layout of rear hull cargo bay, used for carrying spare mine rollers. I've also seen T-55 torsion bars in this area. The resin flag gives the vehicle a sense of movement which adds to the dynamic of the shot



With the KMT-9 mine rollers in position the vehicle is certainly more business-like. The Tamiya side-mounted fuel cells and Trumpeter rear-mounted fuel drums from their T-80 kit all need to be plumbed up with fuel lines. The rear fuel drums are connected with guitar string as discussed in the main text

for this particular Ukrainian BMR-2. The failed Ukrainian counter-offensive earlier last summer can be summed up in a photo most modern armour modellers have seen. It consists of an aerial photograph of knocked-out Leopard 2A6, a bunch of recently delivered Bradley M2A2s and the top half on the right a BMR-2. The Ukrainian counter-offensive of 2023 ran into massive minefields, Lancet drones and artillery along with KA-52 and ground-launched ATGMs.

The Ukrainian 47th Brigade brought BMR-2s with KMT-9s, T-64s with KMT-7s and even specially modified Finnish Leopard 2 mine-clearing vehicles but the odds were stacked overwhelmingly against them. Upon further research, I found a bunch of images of a

BMR-2 serving in 2015 in what is now the DNR. The photos showed two BMR-2s one with Ukrainian forces and the other captured by Russian forces and or their proxies. This earlier variant had three white 'Adidas' stripes on the glacis plate along with other tactical markings and some graffiti... I was instantly hooked. With construction and damage completed all that remained was to paint and weather the 'Ukrainian Mud Monster'.



A rear shot of the construction phase completed and ready for painting. The scratchbuilt lane marker on the rear of vehicle is based on a few rare shots of this piece of kit in use with Ukrainian T-64s and of course BMR-2s



With construction completed it leaves simple tasks like masking off the driver's foul weather cover window, I couldn't resist adding this little detail as spotted in a reference photo from a Soviet BMR-2 driving along the Salang highway in Afghanistan

PAINTING AND WEATHERING THE BEAST

The first step in preparing the BMR made up of a multitude of plastic was to give the model a coat of Tamiya primer grey, so as to identify areas that needed cleaning up or filling. After filling and sanding small areas to identify minor gaps etc., I then primed the model with a can of black car primer which gave a good basis for a mix of Tamiya Greens to follow. Before I started any of that however, I sprayed the front glacis plate white – again with car primer – for the 'Adidas' tactical marking carried on some BMRs and other vehicles used during Ukraine's ATO campaign between 2014 and 2018. These three lines of white were masked off the BMR got its standard green finish overlaid with some small clouds of pale blue-grey.

This colour was made up with 'System 3' acrylic and is based on a original image, but much of it disappears under the mud and dust bath planned next. This process also involves numerous grey oil-paint washes, 6b pencil-rubbing and sponge speckling, adding to the patina of colours and tones, along with layers of Wilder and Mig Productions' pigments to give the project a heightened sense of realism. I'm particularly fond of pigment brush-splatter and flicking, a process which involves much experimentation, layering on, over-doing it, removing some and then going again... As the pigments dry out I find an application of lamp black and raw umber oil paint washes or, more specifically, pin-washes, creates enhanced shading that tricks the eye and suggests extra realism, if that makes any sense.

In the middle of this process I applied some tactical markings in the form of white circles (taken from a Tamiya T-55 kit), some white numbers and some graffiti scrawled on the lefthand front side-skirt. These were given mild splattering of Wilder Russian Earth to get it to fit in with the rest of the composition, as was the Ukrainian flag mounted to the rear of engineering crew compartment.



A few well aimed blasts of Tamiya primer and multi-coloured mish-mash monster disappears and a pleasing, grey and orderly mine-clearing vehicle suddenly looks a lot more presentable



Over the Tamiya primer I gave the BMR a coat of black car primer to create a darker base-coat for the mainly green camouflage and to heighten the dark shaded areas on the composition



DIRTY DIORAMA

The final step in the BMR saga consisted of placing the Mud Monster on a suitable stage along with at least one crew member for a sense of scale and that vital human touch. To this end I cut some styrofoam packaging into a suitable rectangle. This was framed with mounting board secured PVA and a touch of superglue on the edge of card (otherwise it dissolves the styrofoam). Over the surface I applied plaster of Paris, sand, grit and gravel along with an old fuel drum. This little lot was painted and splattered with mainly Wilder pigments such as dark Russian earth and European dust. The final act was commander's figure in the form of a blonde-haired Ukrainian carefully scanning the area with his AK-47 in hand.

CONCLUSION...

I'm glad I finally finished this kit-bash and I intend to finish a few more in between the avalanche of new kits that seem to appear weekly nowadays, so until next time, stay safe.

Side view of the BMR in its high gloss black car paint. The extended sections of plastic used on the Skif side-skirts are evident here, as is the mine damage to the rear of vehicle and loose tow cable



Over the menacing black gloss I now blasted the BMR with a coat of Humbrol 102 Army Green Matt, diluted 50/50 with thinners. The piping on rear fuel drums are shown to good effect here



Another detail at this point was hand painting the rubber skirt sections flat black as seen on these vehicles before camouflage and weathering is applied, this is as clean and factory rebuild fresh as this baby is going to get before its covered in all manner of filth...



At this point I applied a pale blue camouflage with black outlines spotted on the original vehicle. To be honest I wasn't mad about this. I should never make camouflage decisions having been out on the beer with Paul Kunkels all night. The 'Adidas track suit' stripes on the front of the vehicle had been sprayed and masked off earlier



With spraying and painting complete, I now applied a black oil paint colour-wash thinned with Wilder thinners, which settled down the various aspects of this early Ukrainian camouflage pattern prior to some heavy weathering with Wilder and Mig Productions pigments such as Russian Earth and European Mud



**"THIS EARLIER VARIANT HAD
THREE WHITE 'ADIDAS' STRIPES
ON THE GLACIS PLATE ALONG
WITH OTHER TACTICAL MARKINGS
AND SOME GRAFFITI... I WAS
INSTANTLY HOOKED..."**





KIT PREVIEW

CALL AN AMBULANCE!

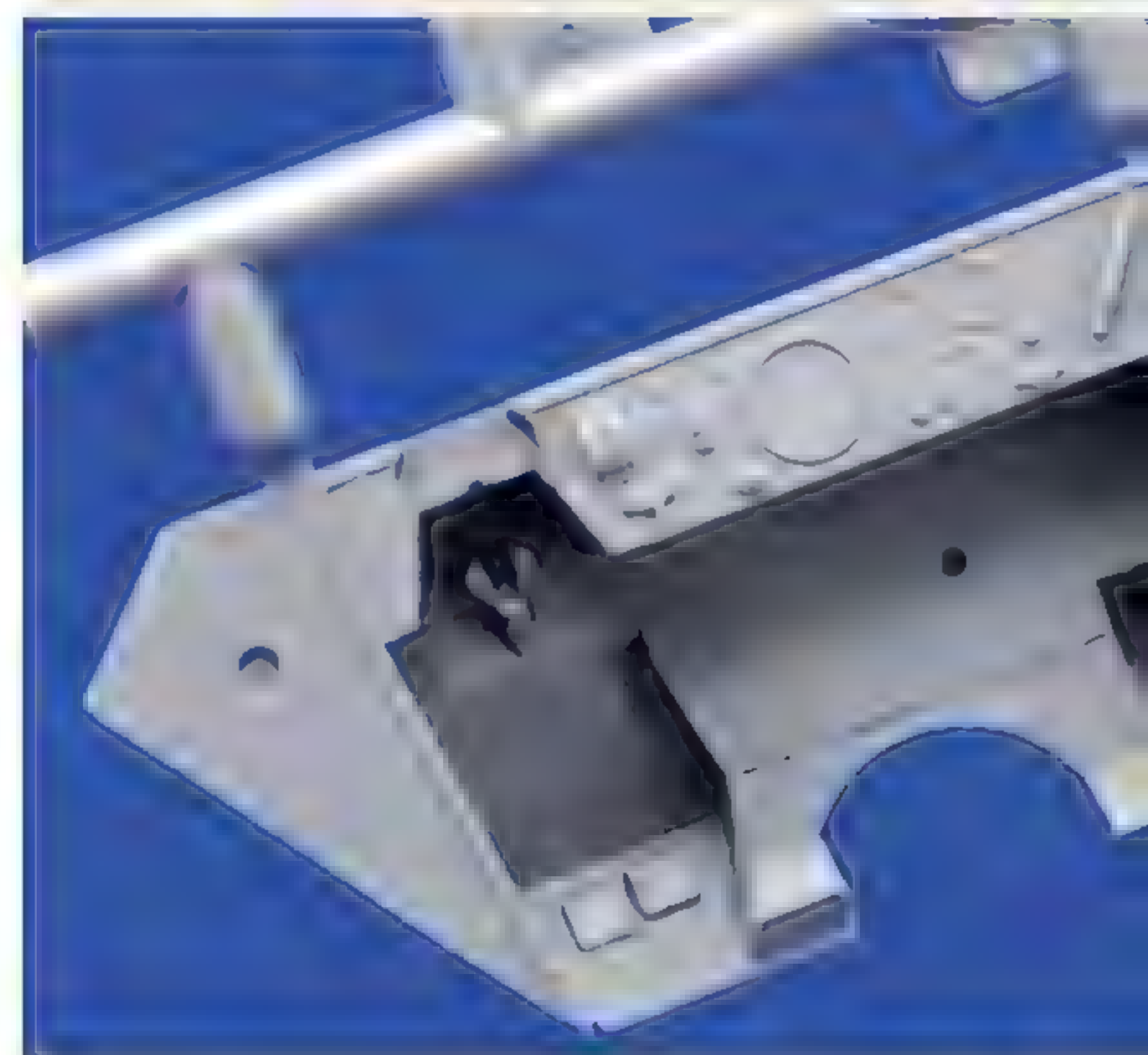
ICM'S 1:35 Krankenpanzerwagen Ausf.A is a superb, modern kit of the early '251 halftrack with levels of excellent detail and refinement

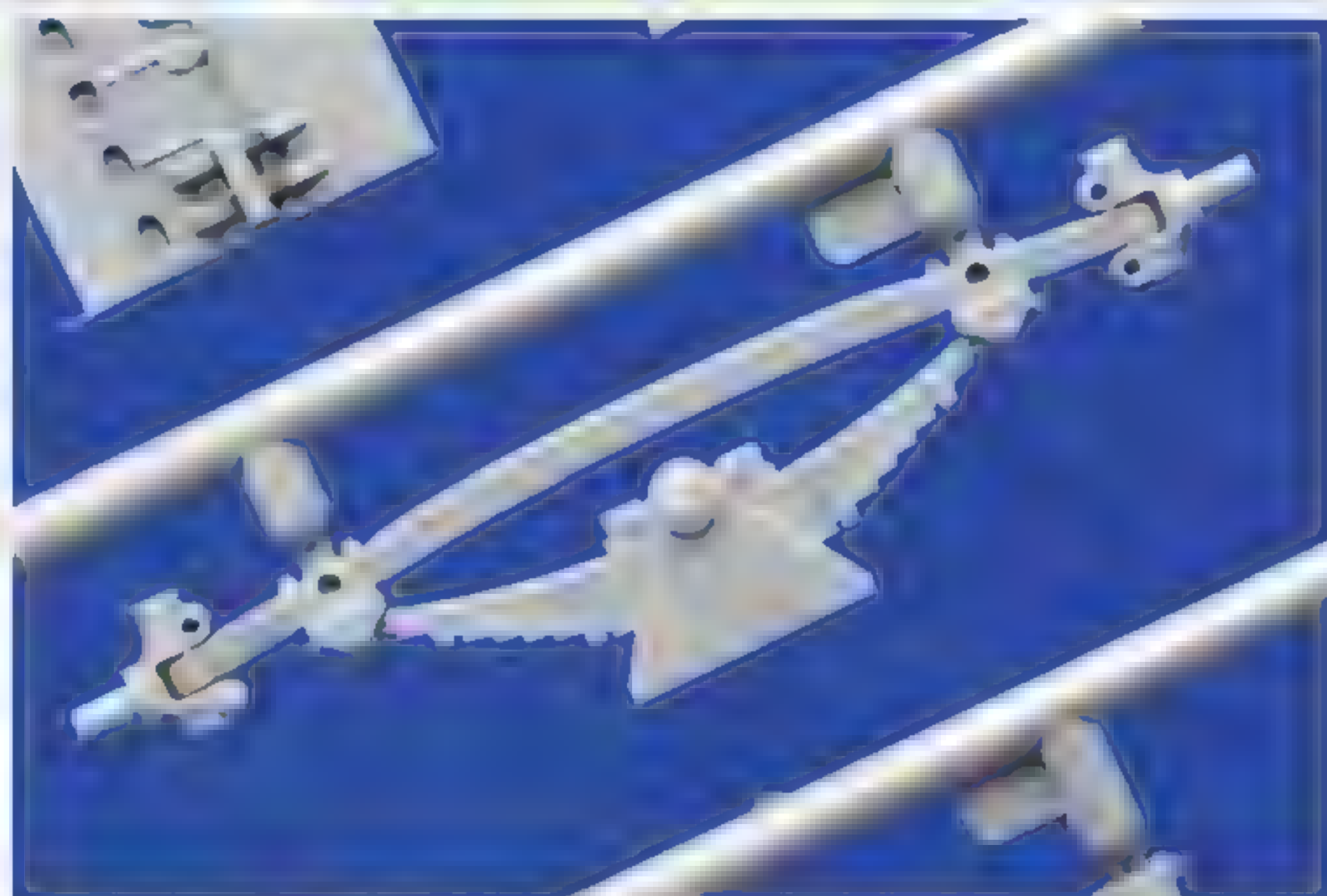
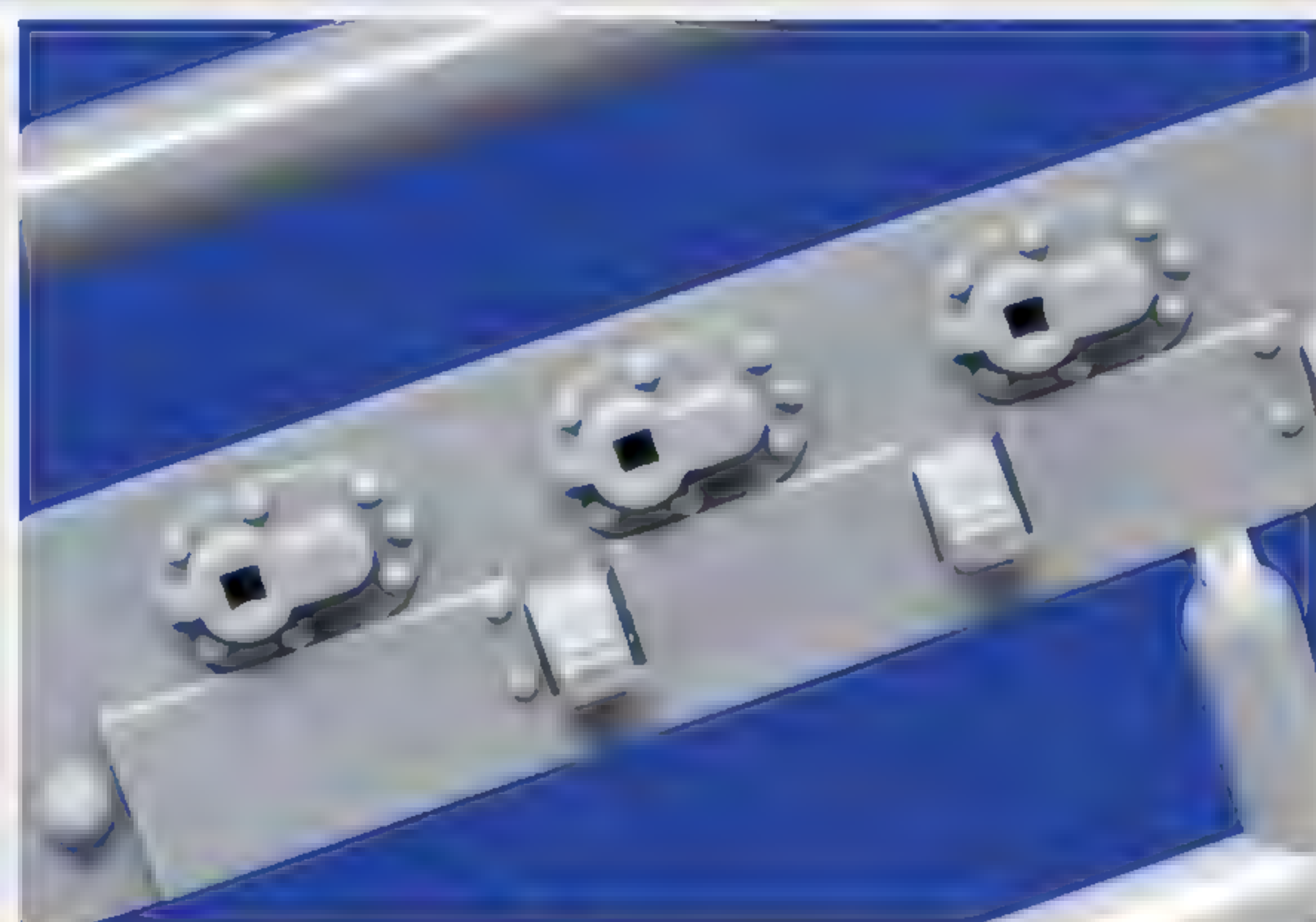
ICM's base kit of the Sd.Kfz.251 Ausf.A dates only from 2018, so it's a modern-generation kit of an exceedingly high standard; no dodgy old moulds repurposed for a new role here. It features some really lovely attention to detail, such as the subtle non-slip pattern in the cabin floor and the open-moulded grille on the engine cover's upper front surface. A full engine is supplied and it can remain (partly) on show thanks to the separately-formed access panels. The notoriously fiddly (from a modelling perspective) interleaved suspension is tackled with aplomb, its individual swing-arms and seemingly endless, overlapping wheels left off until the later stages of construction to avoid damage during handling. The only negative here is the provision of one-piece, synthetic rubber tracks, although to be fair, they are extremely well detailed and

moulded to perfection. It's worth noting that many modellers prefer this type of track and will hesitate to buy a model if individual links are the only option in the box. Also, there are several choices of individual-link Sd.Kfz.251 track available from aftermarket manufacturers, so the modeller can easily choose to buy some to replace the rubber items; not so easy the other way around. This version of the WW2 German halftrack represents a 'krankenpanzerwagen' (ambulance) and so comes with stretchers and what appears to be a water barrel for the interior, along with a sheet of red-cross decals. Impressive one-piece rubber tracks are provided, appreciated by more modellers than you might think.

AVAILABILITY;

www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk





FERRET SCOUT CAR MK.2

Marcus Nicholls
brings us some
modelling references
for the British Ferret
Scout Car Mk.2

At Telford's Scale Modelworld show last year, Airfix had on display a real Ferret Scout Car Mk.2 (also known as Ferret Armoured Car) and despite the less than optimal lighting conditions, I shot this series of images that will hopefully help anyone building the lovely little Airfix 1:35 kit to add a few extra touches of detail. Here's a little history of the vehicle.

The Ferret armoured car – also commonly called the Ferret scout car – was a British armoured fighting vehicle designed and built for reconnaissance purposes, manufactured between 1952 and 1971 by the UK company Daimler. It was widely used by regiments in the British Army, as well as the RAF Regiment and Commonwealth countries throughout that period. The Ferret was developed in 1949 as a result of a British Army requirement issued in 1947. In June 1950 the first prototype of the 'Car, Scout, 4x4, Liaison (Ferret) Mark 1' was delivered, designated the FV701(C).

The Ferret was powered by a six-cylinder, 4.26 litre, water-cooled Rolls-Royce B.60 petrol engine connected to the drivetrain via a fluid coupling to a pre-selector five speed epicyclic gearbox. All gears were available in reverse. The Ferret produced 116bhp at 3,300 rpm and 129bhp at 3,750 in its final form. It normally carried a .303" (7.7mm) Bren light machine gun or a pintle-mounted .30" (7.62mm) Browning light machine gun in addition to the crew's personal weapons. A total of 4,409 Ferrets, including sixteen sub-models under various Mark numbers, were manufactured between 1952 and 1962, when production ceased (*edited from Wikipedia*).



www.airfix.com

www.ipmsuk.org/ipms-scale-modelworld







This view over the engine deck shows its large cooling gills and pair of prominent access hatches



Close-up on rear light and indicator cluster, which is welded to the rear wing



Close-up of a tie-down loop and canvas strap, a nice detail for modellers to add



Detail of wheel hub and bolted rim. DEF Model has recently released a weighted wheel set for this kit in resin: www.defmodel.com

Conflicts in which the Ferret has participated

- Cyprus Emergency (1955 - 1959)
- Malayan Emergency (1948 - 1960)
- Algerian War (1954 - 1962)
- Aden Emergency (1963 - 1967)
- 1964 Ethiopian-Somali War (1964)
- Biafra War (1967 - 1970)
- Cambodian Civil War (1967 - 1975)
- Black September (1970 - 1971)
- The Troubles (1960s - 1998)
- Dhofar Rebellion (1963 - 1976)
- Rhodesian Bush War (1964 - 1979)
- Portuguese Colonial War (1961 - 1974)
- Lebanese Civil War (1975 - 1990)
- Somali Civil War (1991 -)
- South African Border War (1966 - 1990)
- First Sudanese Civil War (1955 - 1972)
- Second Sudanese Civil War (1983 - 2005)
- Suez Crisis (1956)
- Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 - 2009)
- Ugandan Bush War (1980 - 1986)
- Internal conflict in Myanmar (1948 -)
- Iran-Iraq War (1980 - 1988)
- Invasion of Kuwait (1990)
- Syrian Civil War (2011 -)
- Russian invasion of Ukraine (2022 -)



The spare wheel/tyre mounted on the Ferret's left side. Note the mounting hub with quick-release handle



Various views of the smoke dischargers, revealing some interesting details such as the double-thickness tubes, welding spots, large wingnuts and rear hinge mechanism



Close-ups of the aerial's flexible mount which was moulded in rubber. Note the faceted metal base casting and the six bolts that secure the upper part to the lower

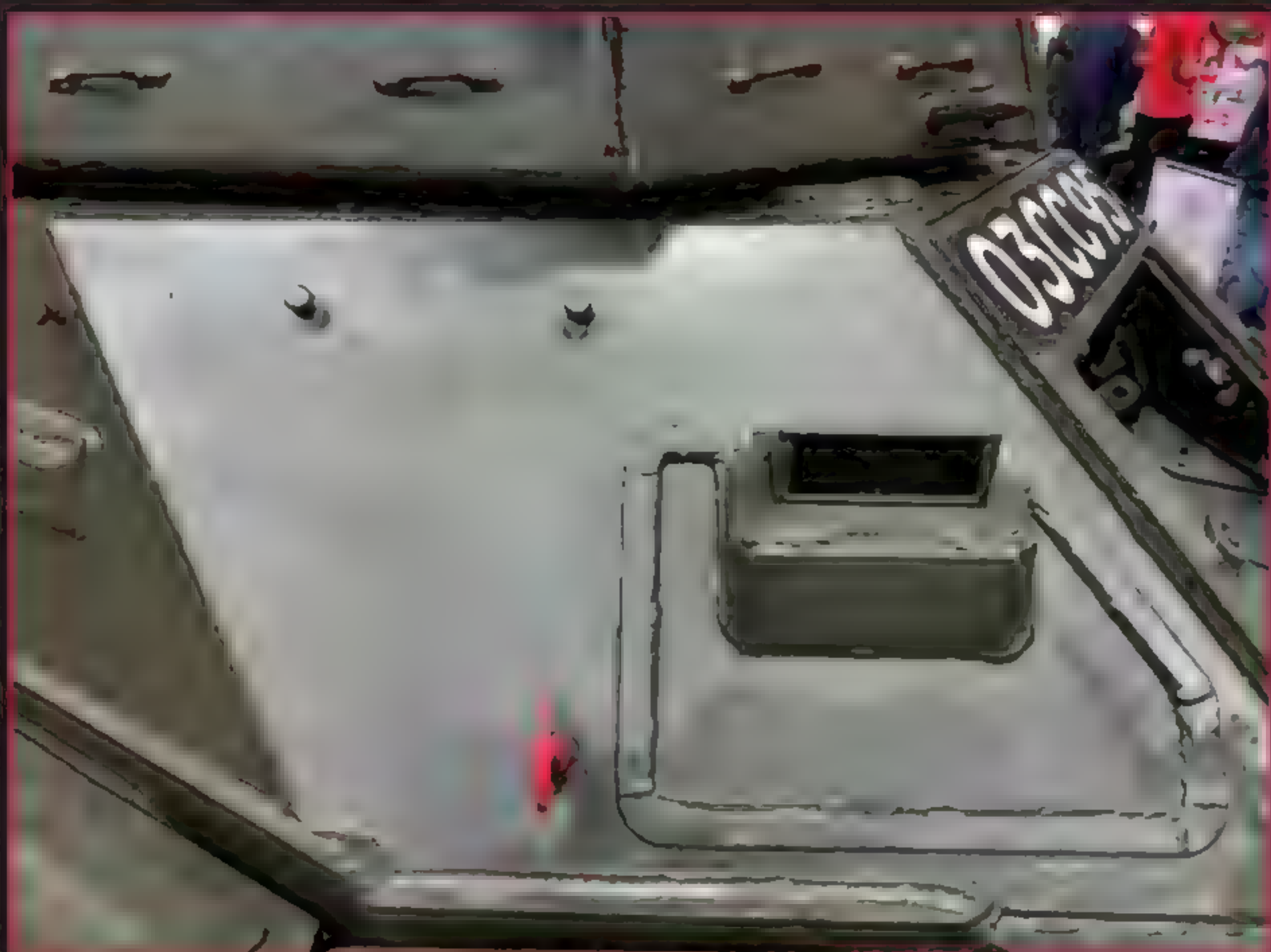


Close-up of a lifting lug which has had more layers of paint than an old school radiator!



Electrical cable for the smoke discharger

Front a rear views of the Ferret's horn, showing its shape and electrical wiring



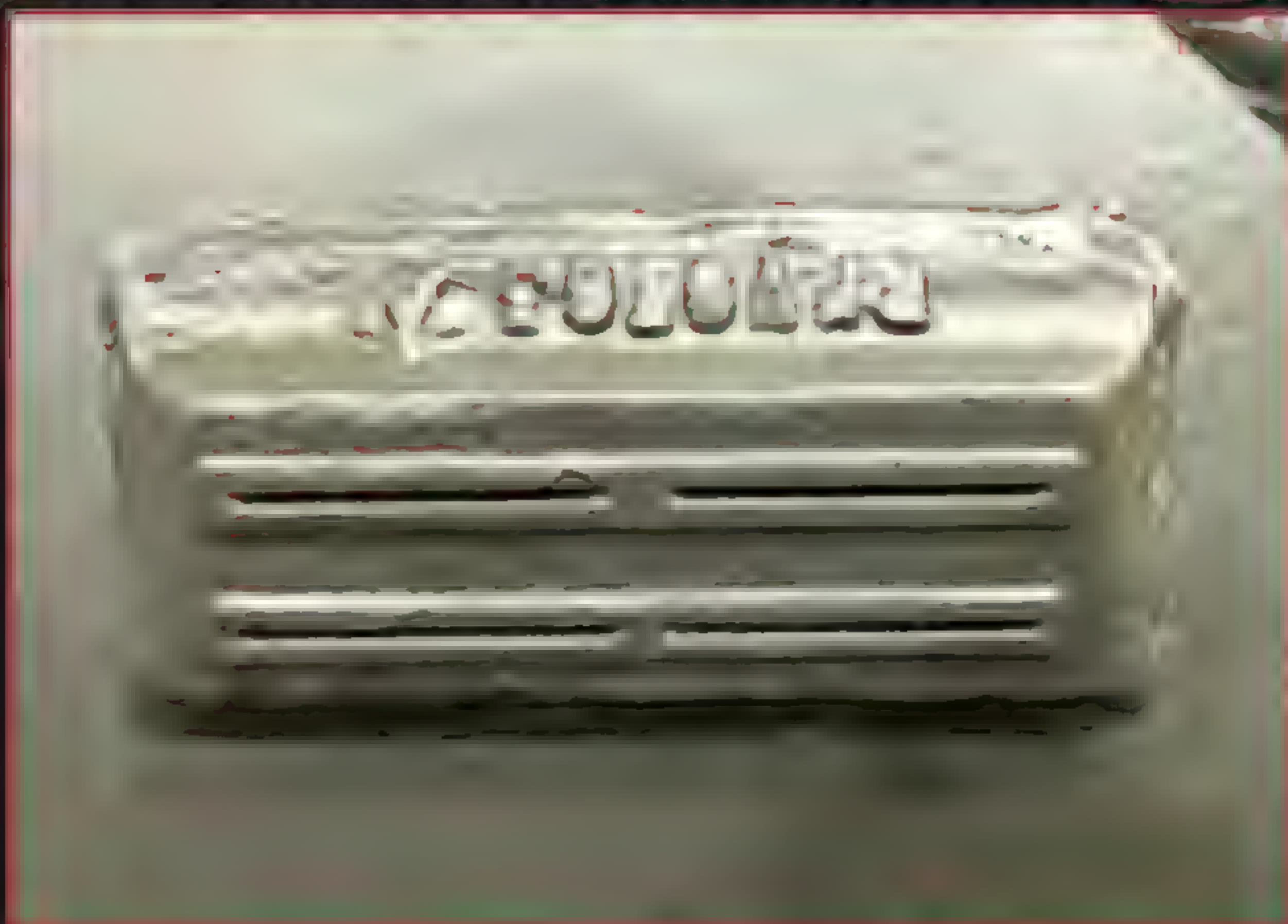
Detail view of the driver's periscope and its heavily-welded mount



Vision-slit casting on the upper hull. Note the foundry mark, inverted when the component is installed



Right-side of the Ferret's hull showing the driver's periscope and welded housing plus other fittings



Armoured panels on the hull's rear plates reveal the distinctive cross-hatching marks so often seen on armour plate



Detail shots showing the large wingnuts used across the vehicle to secure panels and hatches



Hinge-topped storage box on the upper hull with bolted mounts



Weld seams and tie-downs are seen on the right-side engine access hatch, as well as keyholes for the locks and their fixing bolts



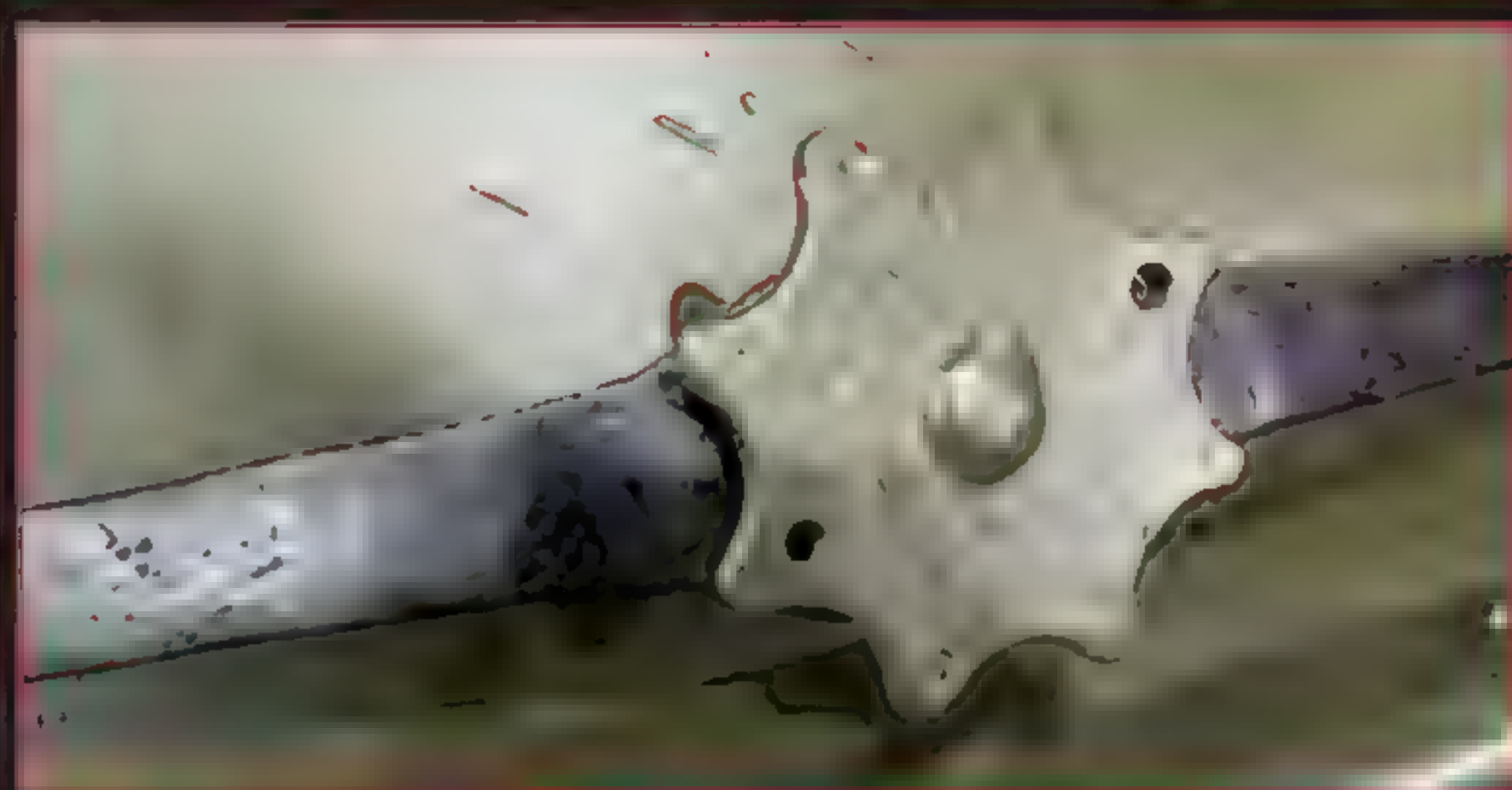
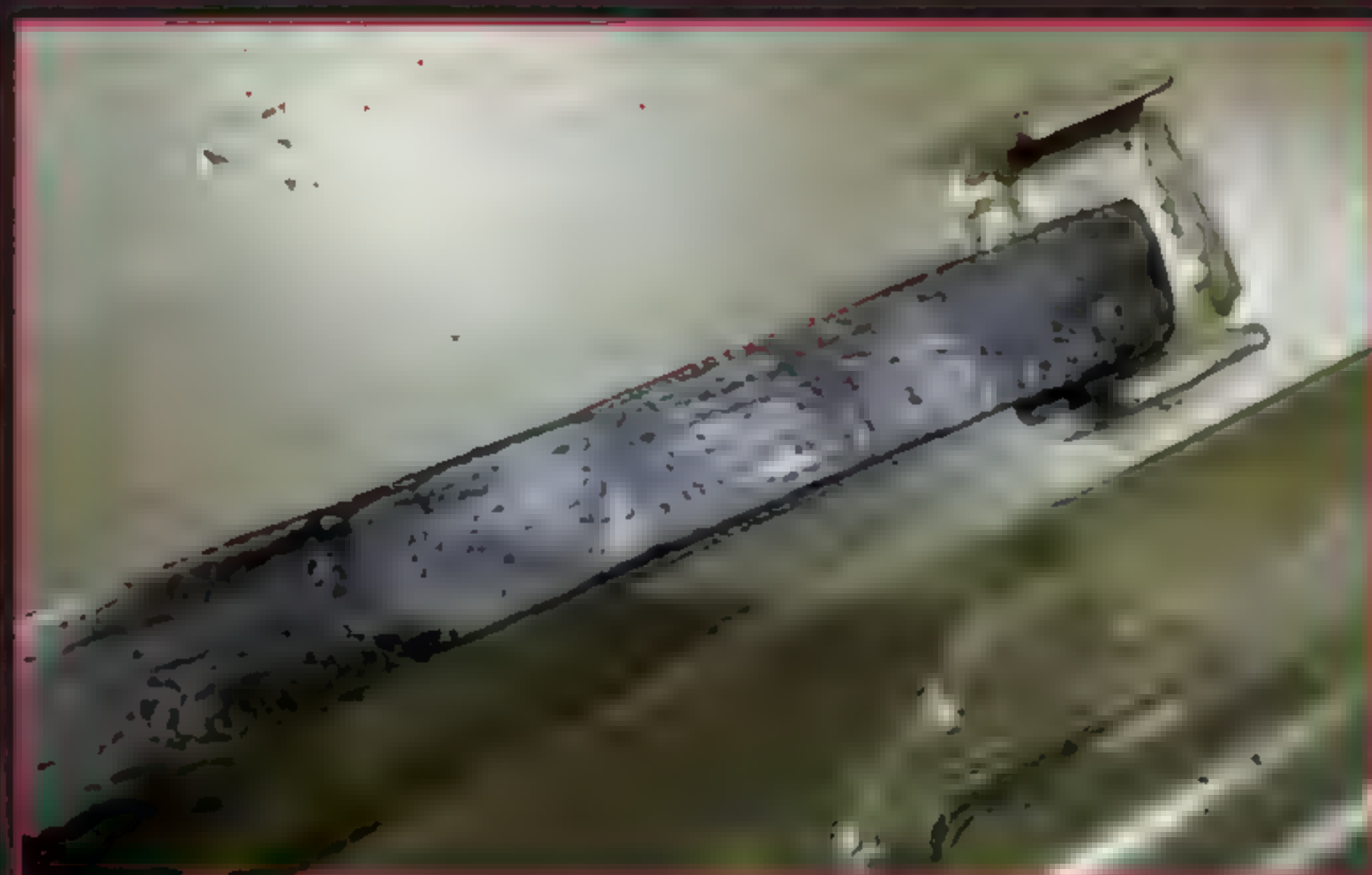
Exterior-mounted fire extinguisher in its bracket. Note the colour, the data stencilling and canvas strap holding it place



This item is a light in a protective housing on the rear panel. Its job was to illuminate the vehicle number below it



Views of the pick-axe handle and head, revealing its mount and star-shaped clamp



Close-up of the electrical cabling for the headlamp, a nice detail for modellers to add



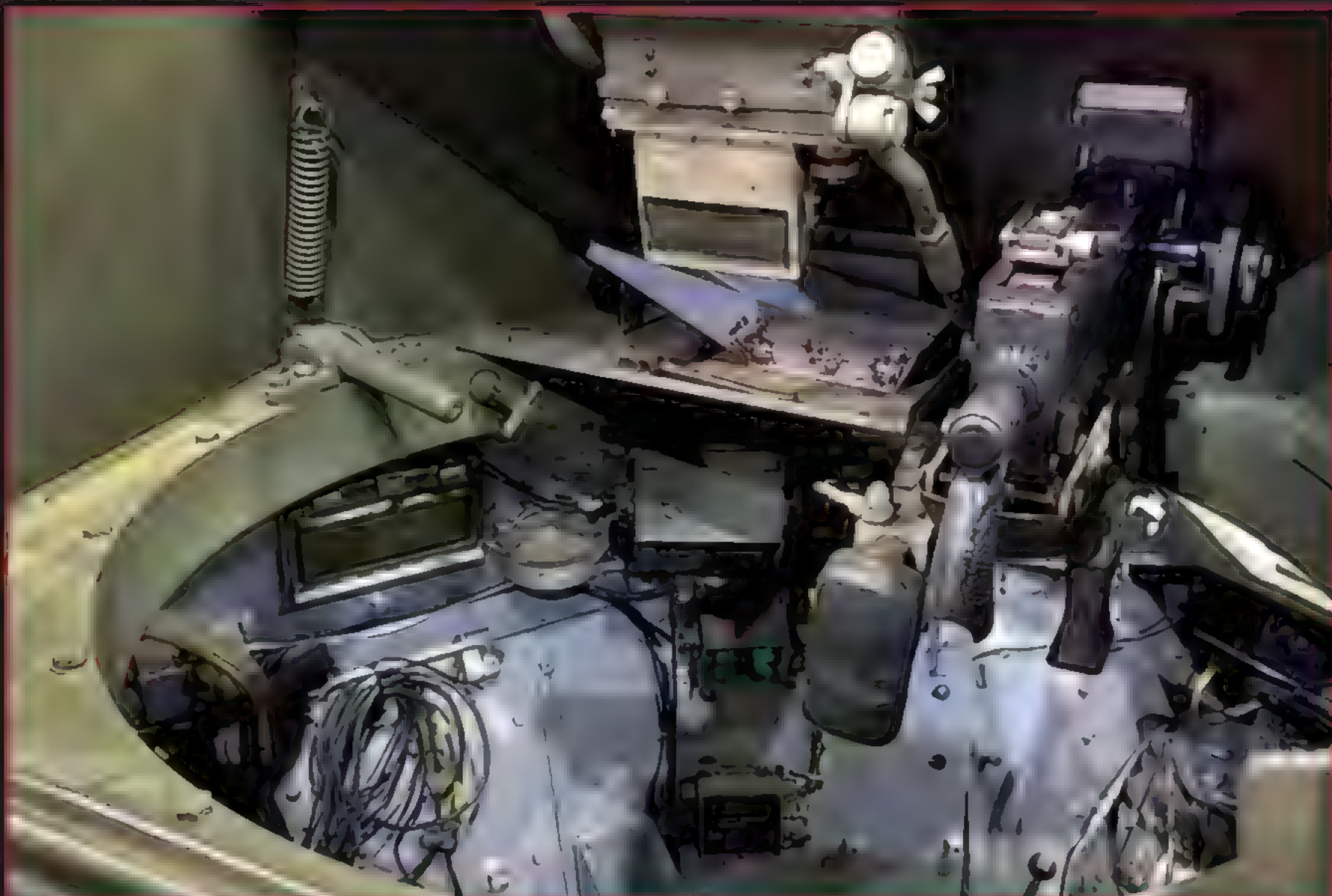
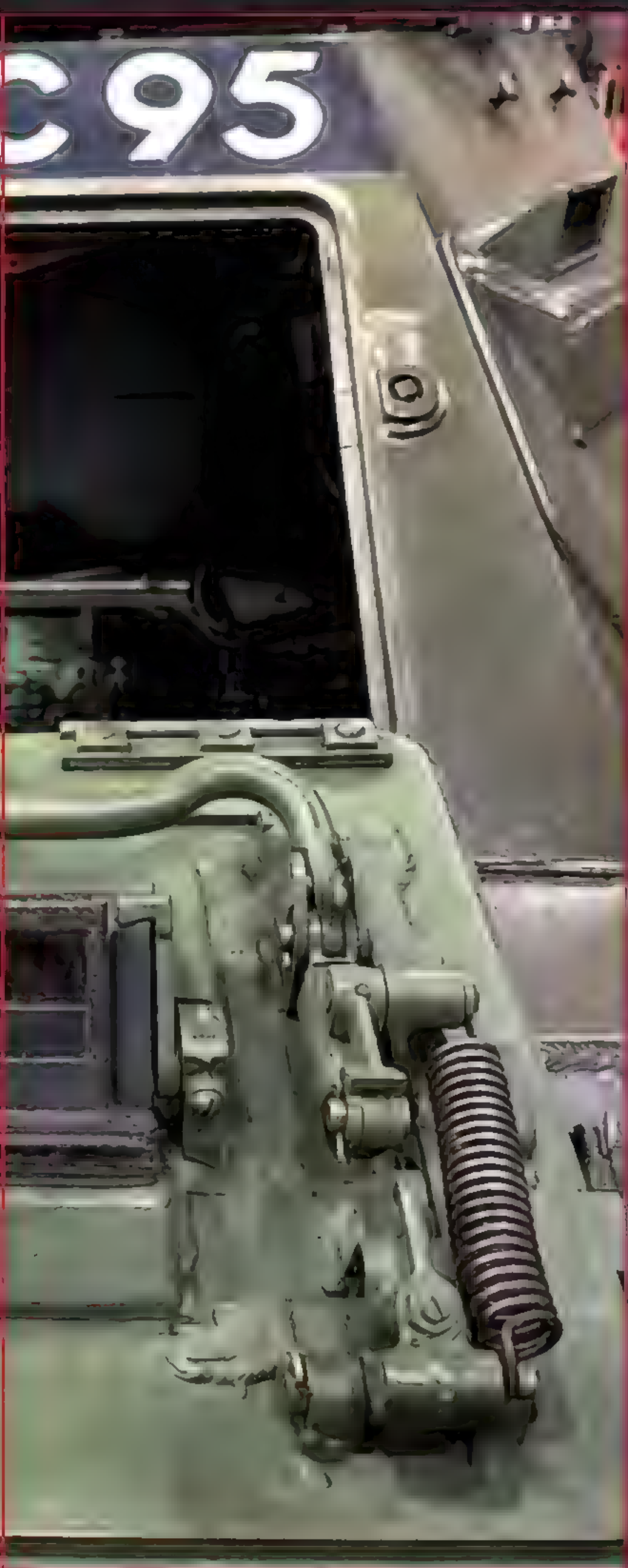
Three aspects of the driver's hatch, with its complex-looking locking mechanism. Note the hefty latch-springs, release bar and central driver's periscope



Turret exterior showing tie-down points and the barrel of the Browning .30cal main armament



The business end of the Browning .30cal main armament. Note the diameter of the muzzle aperture and the slot across it



Two views into the turret through the open hatch. The lower hull's interior can just be made out, everything painted in a flat aluminium colour. We can see the Browning .30cal's breech and trigger grip, as well as the commander's periscope



Front and rear views of the Ferret's large, turret-mounted searchlight, revealing the mount, cabling and glare shield, fitted to avoid dazzling the operator during use

BATTLE FOR PIVA TRAIL: BOUGAINVILLE 1943

The Battle for Piva Trail' was an engagement between the United States Marine Corps and Imperial Japanese Army forces on Bougainville, the largest island in the Solomons archipelago. The battle took place on the 8th and 9th November 1943 during the Bougainville campaign of the Pacific War in the days following the US landings at Cape Torokina earlier that month. The US Marine Raiders in this evocative image have earned the reputation of being skilful jungle fighters. They are gathered in front of a Japanese dugout on Cape Torokina on Bougainville, Solomon Islands. •

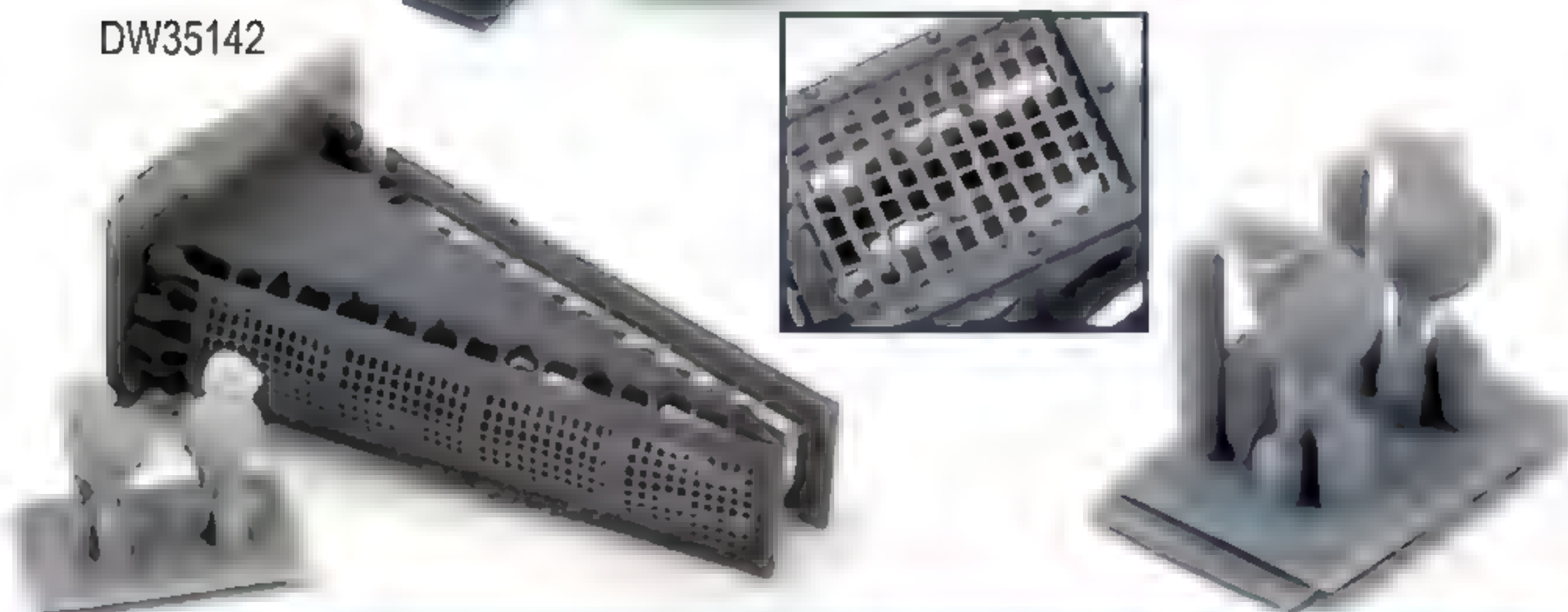
Photo: US archives/public domain



DW35167



DW35142



DEF MODEL, KOREA

www.defmodel.com

DEF Model have created a set of engine cooling grilles for Tamiya's superlative 1:35 KV-1 and KV-2 kits (new generation) in 3D-print and they will greatly enhance the look of this area of both vehicles. You may just be able to see in the photos that a degree of 'sag' has been incorporated in the mesh areas which is a wonderful touch of observation. A pair of horns with open 'mouths' are also provided with this set.

For Airfix's recently released 1:35 Ferret Armoured Car, DEF's weighted wheel/tyre set will add a great deal of realism: separate hubs and painting masks are included, along with greatly uprated levels of surface detail. **MIM**

1:35 resin detail sets

- Russian KV-1/2 upper grille set w/horn (DM35142) for Tamiya
- Ferret Scout Car Mk.2 sagged wheel set (DW35167) for Airfix



FC MODEL TREND, SPAIN

Tamiya's 1:35 M21, M16 and M3A3 US WWII halftracks were re-issued on a limited basis last year and we hope there will be another round of re-issues soon. To give these wonderful models a significant upgrade, FC Model Trend have created a pair of 3D-printed tracks/suspension with running gear printed integrally that simply plug into the kits' chassis. They are impressively detailed and obviate the need to secure the springy vinyl tracks included in the kit box around the wheels. The slight spelling era that says 'boogies' instead of 'bogies' gave us a chuckle too. **MIM**

1:35 3D-print detail set

- M2/3 Halftrack bogies (37068) for Tamiya



LIFECOLOR, ITALY

www.airbrushes.com

Flesh Paint 2 provides a colour palette for figures with darker complexions as demonstrated by the box artwork. Great quality materials that can be hand-painted and airbrushed and now come in much better packages that actually stay in one piece! **MIM**

Acrylic paint sets

- Flesh Paint 2 (CE03)





T-REX, JAPAN

Ever since the first kits of 1:35 German tanks, modellers have been frustrated by the inability of plastic injection moulding to capture the look of the standard tool clamps used on many types of German vehicle. Decades ago, etched brass was used to laboriously create these tiny clamps, and a few years ago we began to see 3D printed examples, both closed and open. The difficulty with these is that tools need to be fed into the closed clamps, which is often problematic. T-REX has come up with an elegant solution. Their latest 3D printed clamps are made 'almost' closed, and when cut from the print supports, the modeller has a tiny clamp with the opening slightly ajar. The tool can easily be popped into the flexible clamp and the clamp can then be closed as per the real item, and fixed with a tiny trace of superglue. The end result is a clamp fixed around the tool, and looking exactly correct. The clamps in each set come in four or five sizes, appropriate for tools with a narrow shaft (eg. crowbar) or a wider head (eg. wire-cutters), with a total of 48 clamps in a set. The clamps come in three styles: Type 1 (early type, 35134), Type 2A (late type with flat angled handle, 35135), and Type 2B (late type with rounded wire handle, 35136). These 3D prints are a huge improvement over plastic injection moulded parts, and remove the need to fold up fiddly etched brass parts. T-REX have answered the needs of many modellers, and these relatively inexpensive items are beautifully accurate solutions to an old problem. Incredibly detailed and easy to use, enabling kit tools to be clamped in place, but these parts are so tiny and so thin that a magnifier is needed to handle them! **CLS**

1:35 3D-printed detail sets

- Universal Clamps For WWII German Panzer, Types 1, 2a and 2b (TR35134, TR35135, TR35136)



ICM, UKRAINE

Each set of acrylic paint contains six plastic bottles of 12ml capacity, which is plenty for numerous figures, or for several vehicles. The paint is very fine and will spray easily if diluted with water or other suitable medium. From the pot, the paint can be applied by brush, and the appearance is excellent. The pots are slightly smaller than the common 17ml 'dropper bottle' style, but have the great advantage of a wide mouth, which makes it easy to stir the paint thoroughly. The paint is creamy thick, but with easy dilution this means the paint will go a very long way. Because they dilute so very well with plain water, the ICM paints have virtually no odour. The pots are very stable, and not easily knocked over! In terms of the colours included in each set, the sets for painting figures provide the basic colours for the clothing and footwear, but do not include colours for the face and hands. The sets for weapons and equipment supply colours for leather, wood and cloth as well as gunmetal for the actual weapons. The colours for vehicles provide useful paints but these are not linked to the actual official colours. The ICM paints are generally very appropriate, but many modellers will wish to match the paints to known wartime references in order to be sure that the colour is accurate. In summary, the new ICM paints have a very high reputation, and have a great consistency and coverage when thinned with water. For many modellers, these sets are a great asset for use with brush or airbrush. Excellent sets providing ranges of good quality acrylic paints at good prices, but the individual paints are hard to find, which can be annoying if one colour in the set gets used up. **CLS**

Specialist paint sets

- Military Equipment Of Armed Forces Of Ukraine (3039)
- Camouflage Uniform Of Armed Forces Of Ukraine (3041)
- WWI & WWII Weapons And Equipment (3043)
- WWI German Infantry Uniforms (3044)
- WWI French Infantry Uniforms (3045)
- Luftwaffe Pilots (3046)
- WWII Military Vehicles Of Britain (3052)
- WWII German U-Boats (3053)



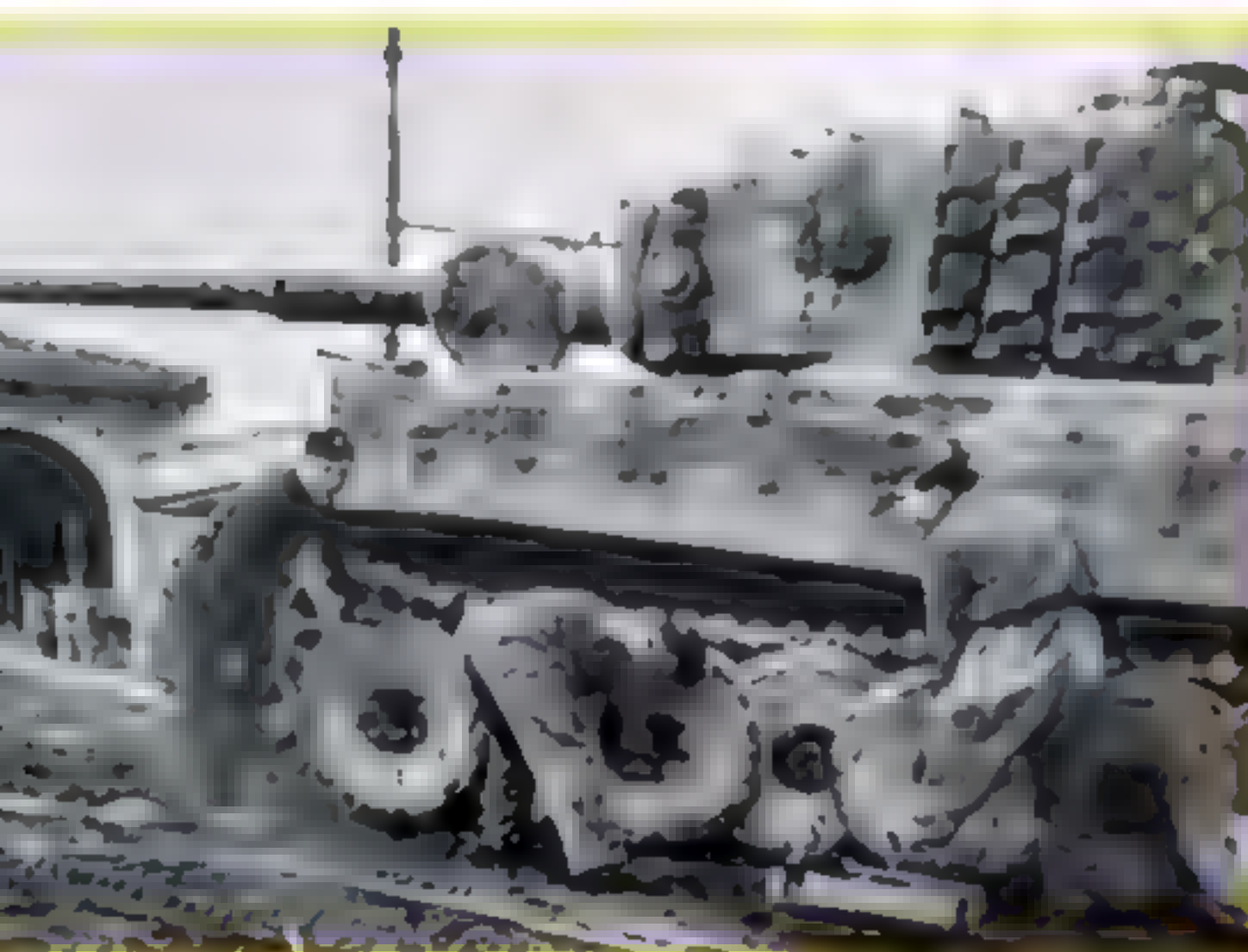
BOOK REVIEWS

CAMOUFLAGE & MARKINGS OF GERMAN ARMOR IN ITALY



JEFFREY PLOWMAN, MODEL CENTRUM PROGRES
www.casemateuk.com

The full title of this excellent A4 softback book explains that it covers the period from the Anzio landings in late January 1944 to the end of the war in the Alps at the start of May 1945. The brutal fighting took place in terrain that favoured defence and limited the use of manoeuvre, which prevented the Allies from using their advantages of number and mobility. As a result, the fighting was a terrible slogging match in narrow roads and mountainous scenery. This book is a superb compilation of photos, mostly taken by the Allied forces and showing captured vehicles. The quality of the images is therefore excellent, with sharp focus and good composition, revealing many details of the varied vehicles and equipment. Each photo has a brief and informative caption, plus the statement that the vehicle "appears to be dunkelgelb with brown and/or green overspray", which illustrates the impossibility of making any comment about colours from a black-and-white photograph. At the end of the book are three colour photos of Italian armour in German camouflage, and then 17 profiles giving colour artwork to show the true appearance of German vehicles. The text is excellent, giving a full idea of the battles that took place as the Allied forces inched their way northwards. It would have been helpful to have a map showing the towns mentioned in the text, for those of us who are unfamiliar with Italian geography. A superb publication, definitely worth getting. Excellent photos and superb artwork showing details that a modeller needs, but guessing colours from B&W photos is not easy and generally should be avoided. **CLS**

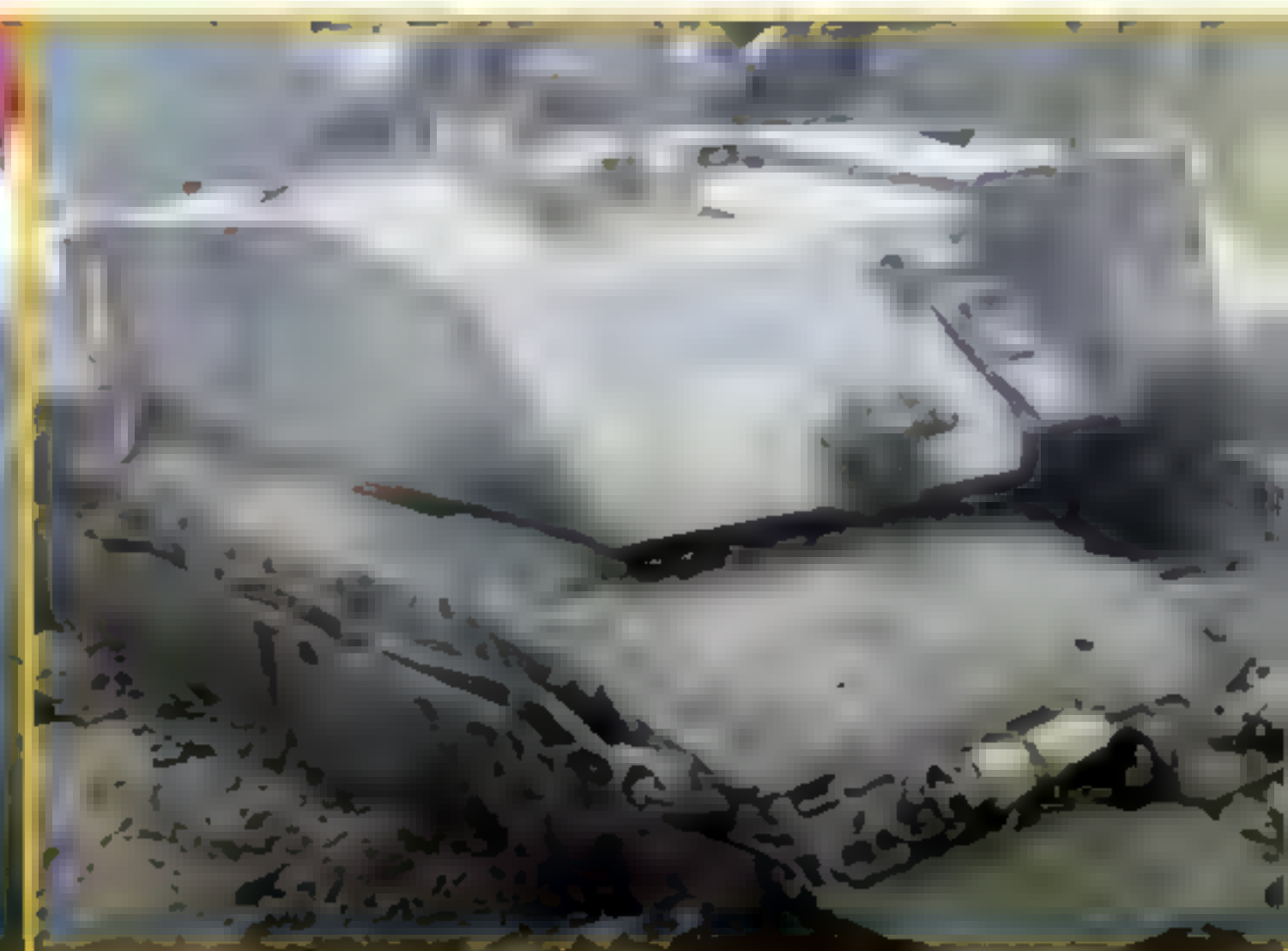
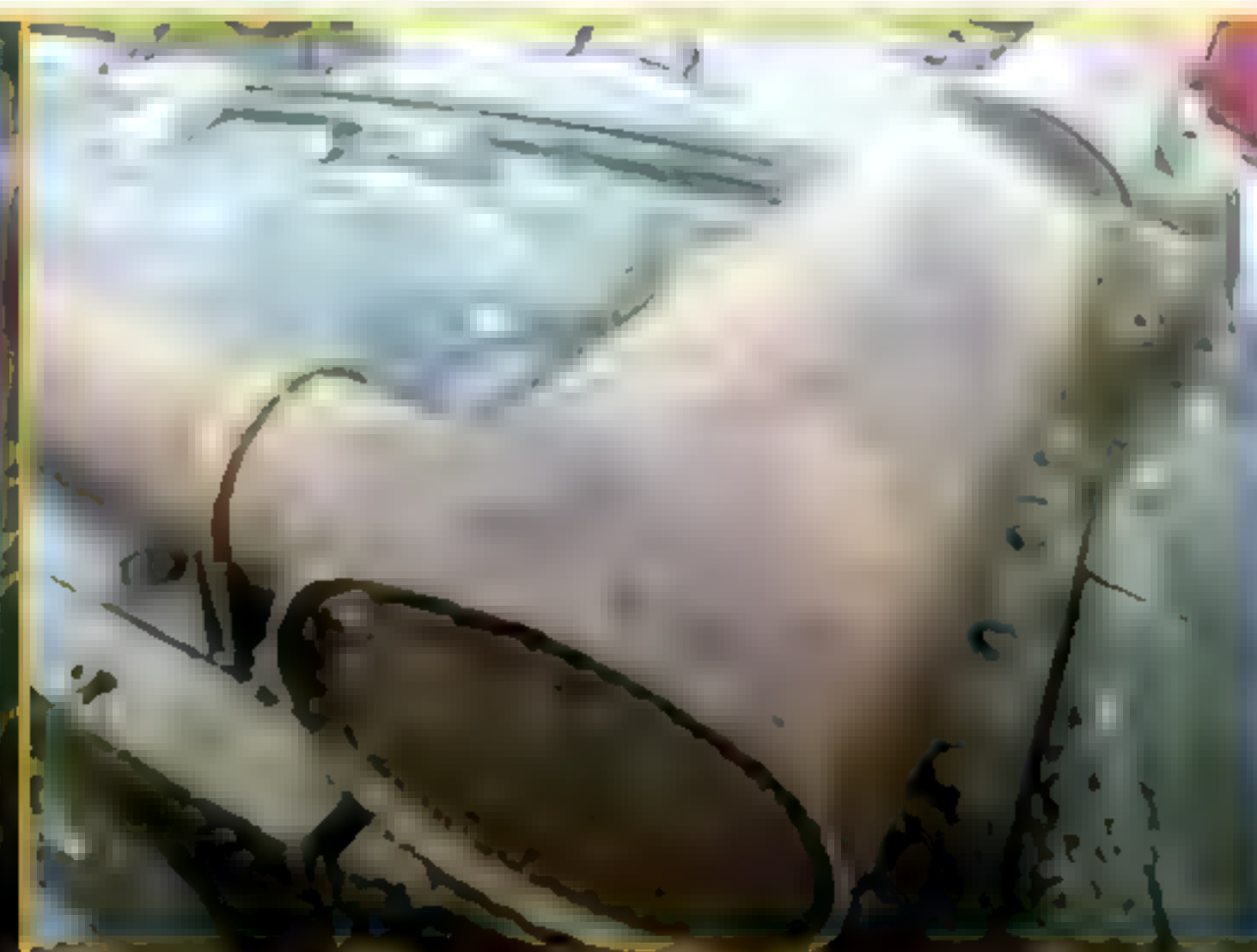
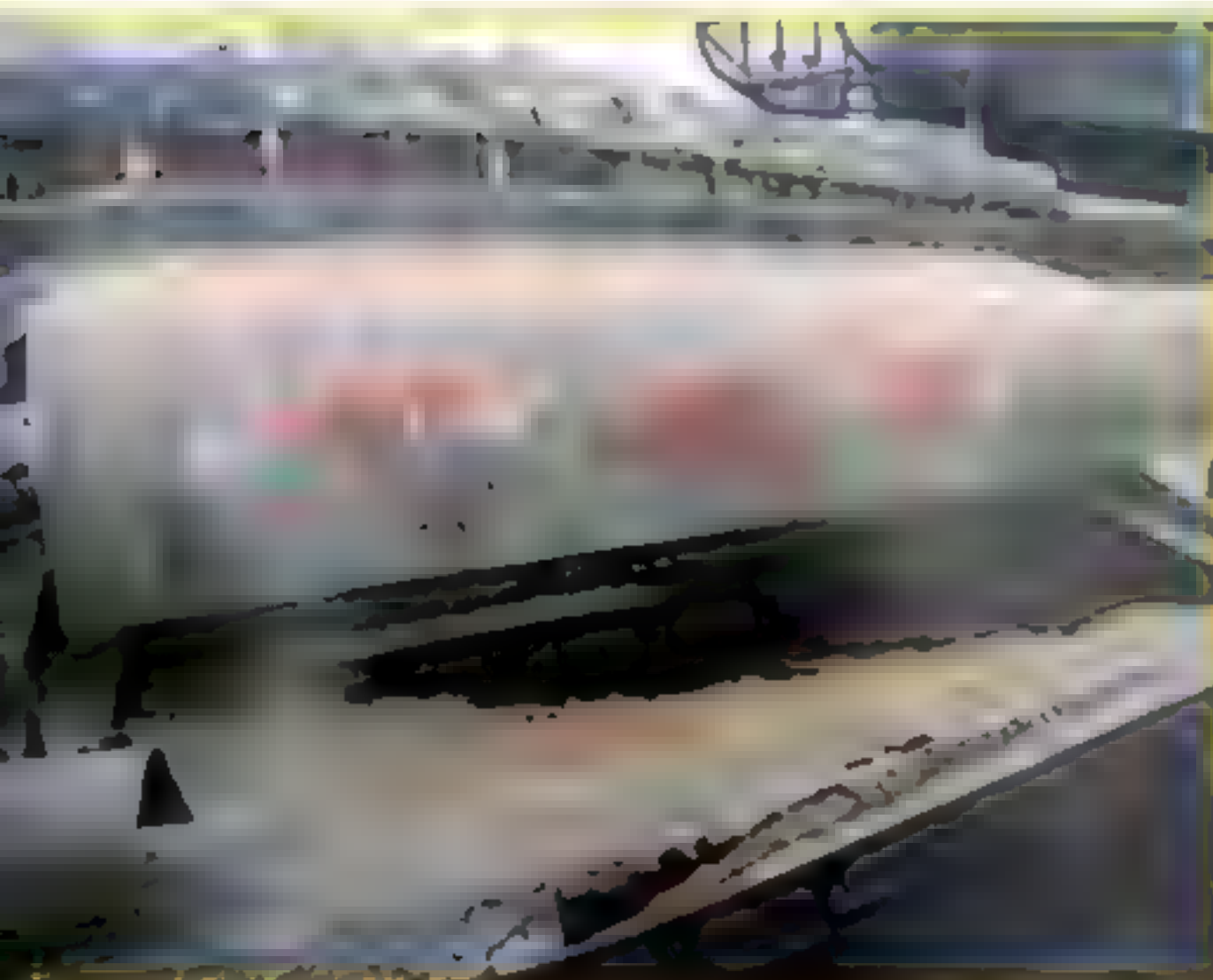


REAL WEATHERING: GREEN SERIES



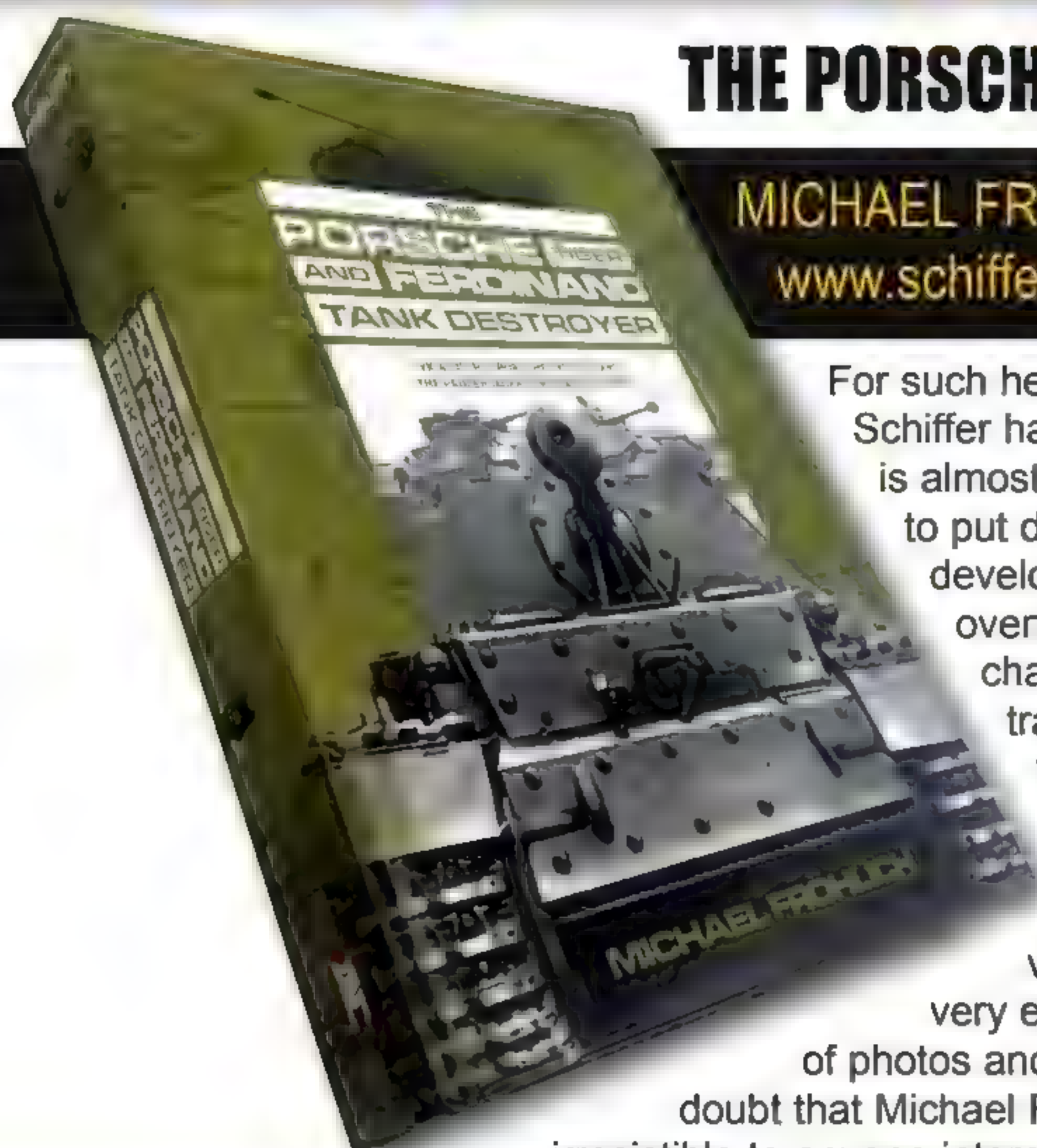
DICK TAYLOR, ANDY BREND, MMP BOOKS
www.mmpbooks.biz

A good number of military modellers do not have access to real vehicles, and often they have to weather their vehicles by interpretation of images or by intuition. This book from MMP is an attempt to offer clear photos of weathered tanks to illustrate the effects of mud, dust, rust and similar agents. As such the book has a lot to offer anyone who might wonder how to interpret the appearance of vehicles shown in period photos. The A4, 156-page book is packed with photos but many of these show museum exhibits or modern vehicles on exercises, so the reader will need to consider how much these images reflect the actual appearance of combat vehicles in action. The images also show the effect of long-term rusting, or oil stains on stored tanks, so the illustrated effects may not appear valid for some real contexts. The main value of the book is to provide inspiration and to give ideas which can be replicated on a model, with the caveat that vehicles in action will suffer extremely heavy wear and tear over a service life that might stretch from a few days to many months. Valuable though this book certainly is, there is scope to include images of real vehicles in service rather than preserved vehicles at rallies or in museums. Available from Casemate Publishers, this book is intended to form part of a series on weathering. **CLS**

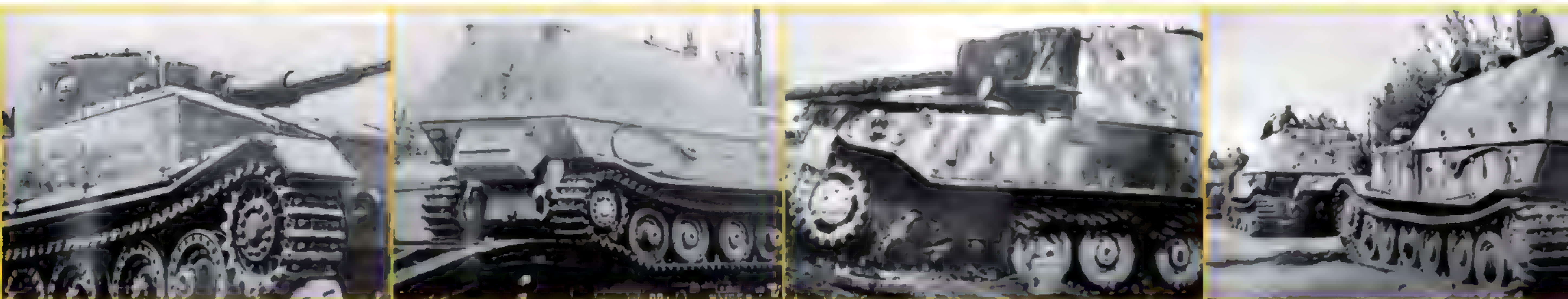


THE PORSCHE TIGER AND FERDINAND TANK DESTROYER

MICHAEL FRÖHLICH, SCHIFFER PUBLISHING LTD.
www.schifferbooks.com

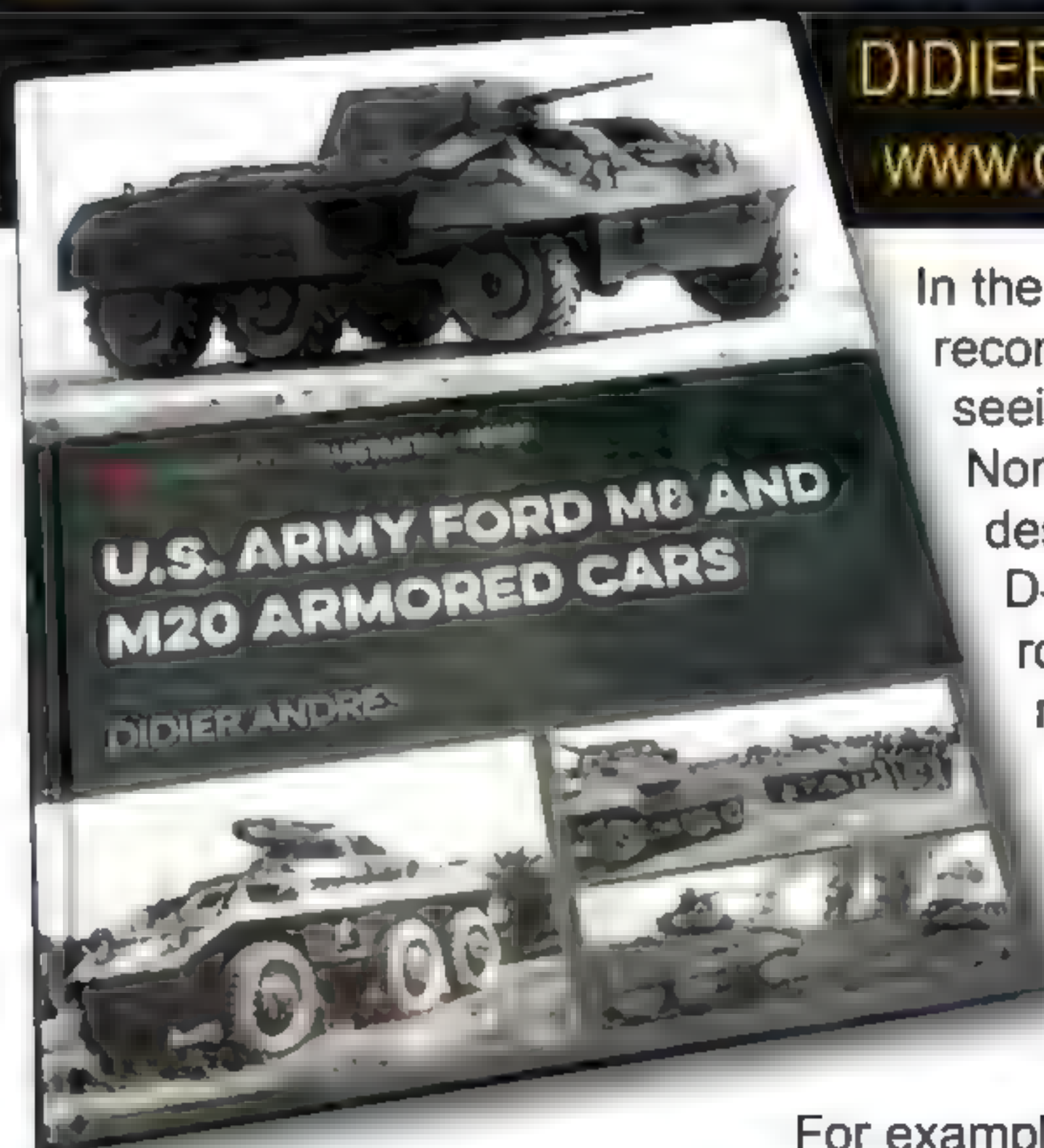


For such heavyweight vehicles, it seems appropriate that Schiffer has published a monster 500-page compendium that is almost impossible to lift, but is so fascinating that it is hard to put down! The tome covers every possible aspect of the development of the Porsche Tiger, which ultimately was overtaken by the famous Henschel Tiger I, but after 100 chassis had been built. The innovative Porsche electric transmission was expensive and troublesome, so after 10 were completed as gun tanks, the remaining 90 were transformed into the famous Ferdinand tank destroyers. These were renamed Elefant at about the time they went for a complete refit, and they remained in service until the very end, with a couple in Berlin at the end of WW2. This book concentrates on the technical aspects, giving a very full description of how the vehicles were developed, and how countless problems were overcome to make the Elefant a very effective machine. The book includes descriptions of the vehicles in service, and the vast array of photos and drawings will be extremely useful for modellers who want complete accuracy. There is no doubt that Michael Fröhlich has gathered together every possible fact about this vehicle type, and the book will be irresistible to anyone interested in military hardware and in particular the technical details of this awesome weapon. **CLS**



US ARMY FORD M8 AND M20 ARMORED CARS - CASEMATE ILLUSTRATED SPECIAL

DIDIER ANDRES
www.casematepublishers.co.uk



In the period before WW2, it was not part of US Army doctrine to make much use of armoured cars for reconnaissance and scouting ahead of the armoured units, preferring light tanks for this role. As a result, seeing the use of British and German light armoured cars for long range fast missions in France and in North Africa, the US Army changed their approach. The M8 armoured car and the M20 utility car were designed very quickly and began to appear in Italy at the end of 1943, and then in NW Europe after D-Day. Ideally suited for scouting and pursuit, the M8 was well-liked despite being largely confined to roads and tracks. The M20 utility car was primarily for communications and liaison, being the preferred ride of many Generals. This book from Casemate is ideal for modellers and researchers, providing enough detail to enhance models without becoming overwhelmed in minutiae. Perfectly translated from the French book by Andres, this 160-page hardback volume is extensively illustrated and explains the development and use of both types of car, with details shown of the interior and exterior. The book deliberately does not touch on the widespread use of these cars post-WW2, with 60 countries known to have used them and the vehicles remain in service in eight nations! While the book concentrates on US use of the M8 and M20, the information is invaluable for anyone working on a model of an M8.

For example, the 1/35 Tamiya M8 is clearly identifiable as a late production vehicle, according to features shown in this book. This volume from Casemate Publishers will be incredibly useful to anyone making an M8 or M20 in any scale. **CLS**





LightCraft

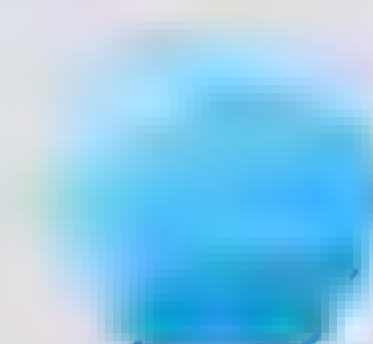
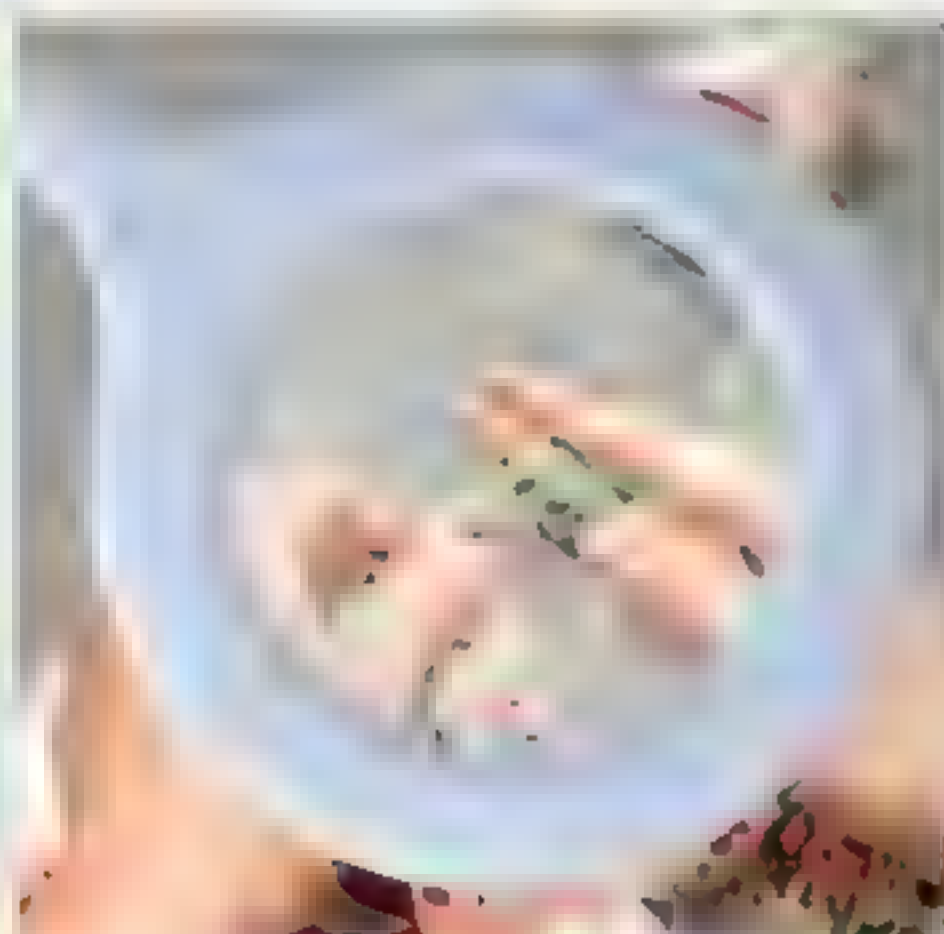
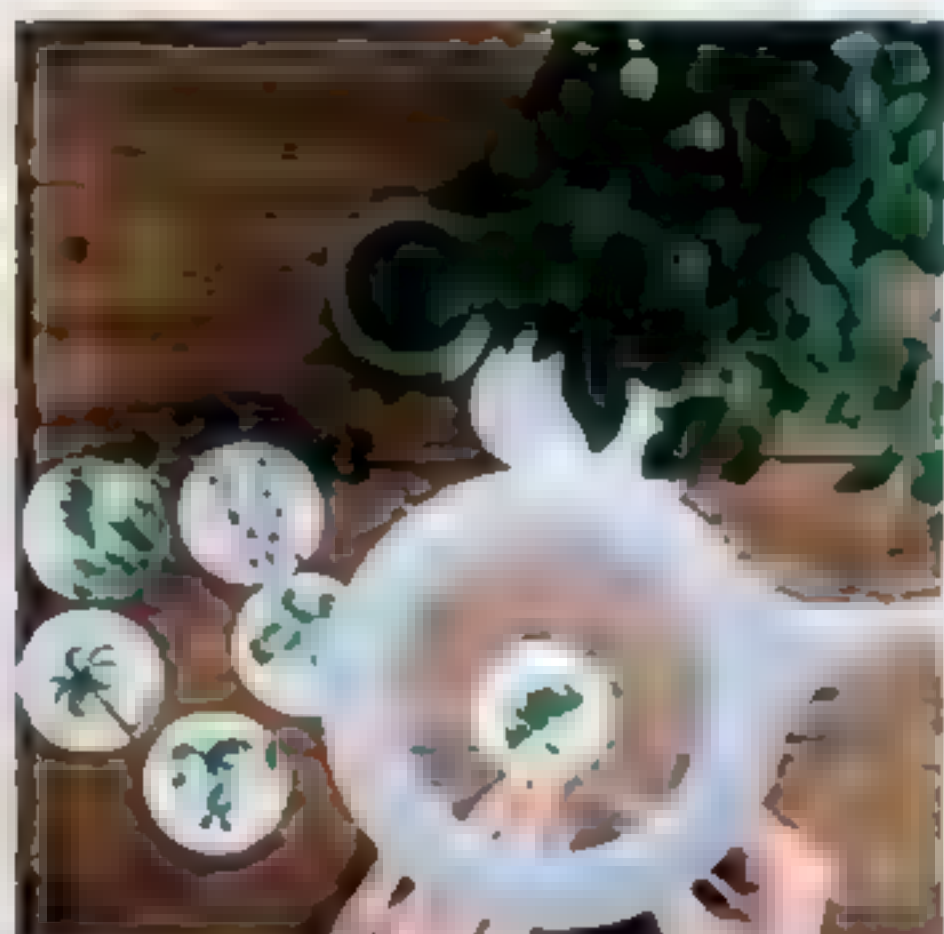
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This famous frame from the 1944 Battle of Normandy shows a wrecked Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf. J, strewn with the debris of war: bricks and rubble from the adjacent building, rags, timber and even what appear to be items of clothing, from the crew perhaps? The right-side track is missing as is its track guard, suggesting it has run over a mine or, more likely, been hit by a round from an Allied tank-destroyer or towed-anti-tank artillery. The sheer quantity of detritus surrounding the vehicle is staggering, an important aspect for diorama-builders to observe. In the background, a US GMC truck with hard-cab bowls along, the driver appearing to take the scene of destruction in his stride. Both machines are available in kit-form, making this tempting inspiration for a diorama. •



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